

HUNT (Illustrated).

SMOKE NUISANCE (Illustrated): Factory Smoke at Sheffield—II.

COUNTRY LIFE

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THE GOVERNMENT AND THE TELEPHONES

IT is a well known economic law that industry derives very great benefit from cheap communication and cheap transport. The present dearth is a handicap on both. A higher postage checks letter-writing; higher telegraph rates are a hindrance on that quick communication by which a great deal of business is done. The increase in the cost of railway transport has inevitably affected the traffic returns, and the railways are face to face with a deficit. Now comes a formidable increase in the charge for telephones. We do not wonder that the business community is rising in rebellion against this. People have been by no means satisfied with the telephone service for some time past. It degenerated during the war and has not yet recovered its former efficiency. Moreover, the Government is placed in an awkward position. When it took over the National Telephone Company that organisation was worked efficiently and at a profit. Since then the official management has made no headway, and the last resource has been to increase the charge to the subscribers. One wonders if, before doing that, any strict investigation were made into the working for the purpose of learning whether efficiency and economy could not be promoted at the same time.

This is by no means an unreasonable requirement. The telephone service of Great Britain lags considerably behind that of other countries. In Germany, for instance, before the war the telephone was in much more general use than it was here. So it was in America, and we believe that we are right in saying that the charge in both these countries was less than it was in Great Britain. More telephones are urgently needed in this country. Many people were on the point of having one or more installed, but this move on the part of the Post Office cannot fail to discourage them. Moreover, it lies under the suspicion

of being unconstitutional, because the sanction of Parliament has not been sought for the enhanced prices. A Committee was appointed to enquire and report, but that does not seem to be an authorisation to alter the rates. The matter was surely of sufficient importance to have been brought before the House of Commons and subjected to discussion by business men. Instead of that being done, the new rates were imposed at the beginning of this week. They affect only new subscribers at the moment, but notice has been given that as the contracts run out old subscribers will have to pay on the higher scale. The procedure is one that might almost have been prepared in order to invite agitation. It adds considerably to the difficulties under which business is conducted at the present moment, and there is no reason for wondering at the protests which are now being heard on every side. These protests will not have been uttered in vain if they induce the Government to turn backward and pass the telephone on to a private company on terms similar to those extended to the gas companies; that is, after a certain profit has been made the balance to be devoted to the extension of the system. That answered in the past, and it probably would do so again. The National Telephone Company, working frankly in their own interests, pushed the service for all they were worth and were reaping the reward in reasonable dividends when the Government stepped in.

The incident may be described as another blow to the policy of nationalising industries. The failure to conduct the telephone service so as to give satisfaction to the subscribers and also make a moderate profit underlines the generally felt suspicion that officials never will exert themselves to such effect as private individuals. The official, as soon as he has not to run the risk or pay the expenses, is naturally anxious to have placed at his disposal every convenience and help that science can furnish; but the public company, like the individual who is working for his own hand, has constantly to study returns and adjust expenditure to economy. There are many things desirable there, as elsewhere in the world, which would probably be procured if funds were available. But if this is not the case, the successful company, or any other successful owner, must be prepared to think not what he would like to buy, but what he can possibly do without, so as to bring down the outlay. Quite contrary to this, the policy adopted has been to seize an immediate profit regardless of the future. Everyone is agreed that the best management seeks moderate returns, and in the end derives greater revenue from them. This requires no elaborate explanation. It simply means that the manager strives as far as possible to popularise his concern and to induce more and more people to take an interest in it. That, in its turn, conduces to more economy and profitable management, because the costs will inevitably decrease in proportion to the increased numbers catered for. The same argument would apply to the other services to which allusion has been made—letters, telegrams and railway rates. Cheapness in all of them is a much-needed stimulant to increased production. We perfectly understand the very difficult circumstances in which the authorities are placed. There is increased expense and there is shortness of revenue, due in the main not to individual fault, but to the consequences of the war. The difficulties are great, but the strength of the nation, like the strength of a man, is best shown when called upon to achieve what some think to be impossible—a word that has no place in the vocabulary of the victorious.

Our Frontispiece

WE print this week a new portrait of the Countess of Reading, who will accompany her husband when he goes as Viceroy to India. Married in 1837, Lady Reading, who is a Dame Grand Cross of the British Empire, has two little grandchildren, the son and daughter of her only child, Viscount Erleigh.

* * * Particulars and conditions of sale of estates and catalogues of furniture should be sent as soon as possible to COUNTRY LIFE, and followed in due course by a prompt notification of the results of the various sales.



COUNTRY NOTES

IN the trade returns for the year and for the month of December the fortunes of industry are accurately reflected. In the beginning of the year there was a strong trade boom. Always in the figures showing the imports and exports the effect of any movement is shown later than the time of the actual change. A boom occurs when orders are given and the execution of them begins, but the statistics are founded on the delivery of the goods; hence it was November before the full effect of the increased trade of the early part of the year was recorded, and, consequently, the figures for the year would be very satisfactory if it were not for the fact of the ominous falling in those for December. There the effects of the depression are only too clearly visible. We do not think, however, that there is any evidence to make us dread a permanent loss of trade. At a time when funds all over the world are so near exhaustion it is but natural that a spurt of trade should be followed by a stagnancy which, in its turn, will no doubt give place, soon or late, to a renewed briskness.

IN his ingenious discussion of the migration of life from the water to the land Professor J. Arthur Thompson of Aberdeen University, who has been giving the Christmas lectures to children at the Royal Institution this year, did not venture to say where life was engendered. Was it on land, on the cooling mud, or in the sea? The third of these alternatives seemed to be assumed when he said that getting out of the water was one of the greatest advances in our development. Animals which live in the open sea are probably more fortunate than the land dwellers. They receive oxygen through their delicate velvety skins, whereas when on land they have to adopt hard skins and breathe through fine and specialised organs. If we could only get into the mind of these early sea animals and understand why land had such an attraction for them! A watery origin seems indicated by the fact that mammals have little slits in their necks corresponding to the gills of fishes. It is a curious fact to know that in all the higher animals the proportion of salt in the blood is almost the same as that of beings which live in the sea. To all this Professor Thompson added a little idyll of the blessed worm, that industrious husbandman which made the earth fertile and human life possible. In fifteen years the worms turn over the surface of the earth by three inches. He was equally interesting about the second invasion of dry land, that of centipedes and millipedes.

INDIA is not likely to be oblivious to the meaning of the fact that England, at this most critical moment, has sent her Lord Chief Justice to be Viceroy. Surely there could be no better choice. Lord Reading is not only a lawyer but a judge, and among those warring factions of the East he must appear to be justice incarnate. There is no one on the Bench, or off it, who has shown greater fairness and capacity in weighing the merits and demerits

of the cases brought before him in litigation, and to say that he has discharged the duties of the Lord Chief Justice in accordance with the noble traditions behind that office is to pay him the highest compliment in our power. His career has been varied and brilliant. He entered the law at an age when the reputation of most lawyers has been either made or marred. By pure hard work, aided by the clear common-sense which is his most distinguished characteristic, he quickly rose to a very high position. Then he turned his eye on the political arena and entered Parliament. In the House of Commons his oratory was not so effective as it had been at the Bar, and it seemed as though the crowning act of his career would be his appointment as Lord Chief Justice. During the war, however, he proved a great support to Mr. Lloyd George, both in the field of finance and in diplomacy. His visits to America on high imperial business were mainly successful. They give the best reasons for hope that the novel conditions with which he has to deal in India will find him adequate for their solution.

PROFESSOR FLINDERS PETRIE has written an article in the *Contemporary Review* which will well repay study. Its title is "What is Civilisation?" and there are few more capable of finding an adequate answer. As is well known, Professor Flinders Petrie has devoted especial attention to the Civilisations of the past. He has found eight periods in Egypt and his calculation is that each culture has had a life of about sixteen hundred years. Christian civilisation would appear to have outlived that term, but to say that is going only by the date of its founder. For long Christianity made no great headway in the world, and in many cases it was first adopted as a means to gratify barbarian ambition. Sixteen hundred years ago this country had no civilisation to speak of. It was not until the seventh century that Christianity began to make headway in this island. Perhaps it is even more interesting to examine the test which Professor Flinders Petrie applies to the countries at the present moment. He divides the population into spenders and savers. If savers are in the majority, as in France, they are strengthening civilisation. If spenders are in the majority, as in England, they are hastening the ruin of civilisation—a very weighty message and one to which heed should be given.

SURPRISE.

Three days ago the garden paths were bare
Of colour; bleak vistas of rain-pressed mould,
Glist'ning and dark, scattered with sadden leaves.
But now a flock of crocuses are there,
Bright in the winter sun, spilling their gold,
And opening their fragile lilac sheaths.

GUY RAWLENCE.

THE beginning of the lambing season is a very natural time for speculating as to what is likely to be the future of sheep-farming in this country. For a long time past it has been, on the whole, dwindling. The number of sheep in Great Britain fell from twenty-seven millions ten years ago to about twenty millions this year. A great many reasons, more or less valid, are put forward for this, such as the increased cost of labour, the shrinkage of pasture land and its absorption into arable, and so on. Most commentators lose sight of the fact that among the more skilled and knowing of the Continental farmers the keeping of sheep has become unpopular. We speak of it as a business proposition. There are always a certain number of owners who like to keep a fashionable breed for show purposes and for breeding: in this country it is possibly this class of sheep farmer who alone is doing well at the present moment. The unpopularity of the flock lies with those farmers who are working for a livelihood. Many who kept sheep at the beginning of the war got rid of them during its progress, and they show no particular sign of replacing their flocks.

ACCORDING to Lord Ernle, who has written two very characteristic articles on the enclosure of open-field farms in the *Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture*, very different ideas of sheep prevailed between 1485 and

1560, when the enclosure movement, long in progress, reached a height which alarmed the country. It was said, probably with some exaggeration, that the landowners, tempted by the high price of wool, evicted the open-field farmers from the arable land, meadows and common pastures of the village farms and turned the whole into sheep walks. A hamlet was often represented by no more than a shepherd and his dog. "Sheep, 'that were wont to be so myke and tame, and so smal eaters,' turned into devourers of human beings :

They have eate up our medows and our downes
Our corne, our wood, whole villages and townes;
Yes, they have eate up many wealthy men,
Besides widowes and orphan children."

IT would certainly appear to be a wise policy on the part of the Ministry of Food to get rid of their stock of bacon and decontrol the article. The meeting of the members of the Home and Foreign Produce Exchange was almost riotous in making this demand. It was stated in the resolution passed that the people of this country are being overcharged half a million a week on bacon, hams and lard. Mr. A. F. Sheed estimated the Ministry's stocks at 25,000 tons, and he thinks the stocks could be cleared quickly at not less than a hundred shillings a hundredweight. That would mean a loss to the Ministry of £1,000,000, but he repeated what others had said, that if control were continued until the end of March consumers would lose £6,000,000. The plain fact would appear to be that the Ministry have paid more for the bacon than they can get for it. They are not likely to obtain more by waiting, and the sensible thing would be to take this advice and sell as well as they can. It seems certain that decontrol would result in an immediate fall in price of from five-pence to sixpence a pound.

THE first wireless telegram sent from France to this country will be reckoned as a landmark in history. It was sent by President Millerand to the King, who replied by the same means on Saturday; henceforth anyone will be able to send a wireless to France at the cost of 2½d. a word. The system will be that of sending by high-speed wire telegraphy to Chelmsford, where it is relayed by wireless to Paris. Messages from France are handed in at the Boulevard Haussman, Paris, where a transmitting apparatus operates the wireless at Levallois, about five miles off. The message is picked up at Witham in Essex and automatically sent on to Fenchurch Street. The actual time of transmission of a business cable of from twenty-five to thirty words is a quarter of a minute. This is a very great step forward in the history of telegraphy. Very likely, in the course of a few months most of us will have sent a message in this way; but we can scarcely imagine any familiarity that would utterly destroy the wonder and the novelty of it.

A TOUCHING little ceremony took place when Lord and Lady Lee handed over "Chequers" to the Prime Minister. Lord Lee made a graceful speech, in which he referred to the peace and quietude of the place and expressed the hope that Mr. Lloyd George and his successors would enjoy these essentials to perfect rest. In response, Mr. Lloyd George referred to the sacrifice made by Lord and Lady Lee in dedicating this beautiful property with the whole of its historic relics, furniture and art treasures to the nation. Before leaving, Lord and Lady Lee wrote the following in the visitors' book :

8th January 1921. To-night we leave this dear place with a sense of loss which cannot be measured, but content and happy in our faith that "Chequers" has a great part to play in the moulding of the future, and that in freeing it for this high task we are doing the best service to our country that it is in our power to render. We are also sustained by the confident belief that our successors here will honour and guard our Trust and that "Chequers" in return will give to them, above all in times of stress, those blessings of peace, health and happiness which for so long it has given to us. Signed.—LEE OF FAREHAM and RUTH LEE OF FAREHAM.

THOSE who are interested in finding work for the unemployed—as who are not?—will read with advantage the interesting letter from an ex-soldier which Lady

Victoria Herbert has forwarded to us with a covering letter. It appears in our correspondence pages. The writer is an ex-soldier who was a prisoner of war in Germany, and, after the war was over, accepted the Government scheme of emigration and left England last spring for Tasmania. He was without funds except for a small new outfit of clothes and a five pound note. He tells us that there is in Tasmania room for all the out-of-work men in England. Railway construction is going on and will be continued for the next twenty years. The wages are twelve and sixpence a day and the men live well on a pound a week. In addition, carpenters, miners, bricklayers, blacksmiths, handy men, and farm hands are all much needed, the qualifications being that a man should be under thirty-five years of age, with reasonable stability of character, which our ex-soldier defines as being "not a heavy drinker or a wishy-washy sort."

HOW LONDON PLAYS.

The rooms are full of blinding light,
The Maenad music blares and brays,
And to its madness all the night—
A crowd of dancers swings and sways.
This is how London nightly plays,
Nor finds a nobler way than this
To give the fateful after-days
Of Britain's triumph emphasis.

Here is a hell of heat and noise,
While grey-haired satyrs leer and grin,
And half-clothed girls, and effete boys
Voluptuously whirl and spin.
And Innocence is dressed like Sin,
And Virtue promenades with Vice.
Are these the things we fought to win,
Or worth a nation's sacrifice?

And far away from London town,
Are solitudes that moonbeams fill,
And starlight looks divinely down
On many a lovely vale and hill,
And all the earth is sweet and chill,
Where only fays and fairies dance,
And Fancy there may wander still
Along the ways of old romance.

But here even youth goes wearywise,
Pursuing that which only tires,
And lonely eyes meet lonelier eyes
Across a gulf of dead desires.
Oh, ye who chase such phantom fires,
How is it when the hour is flown,
And, as the feverish night expires,
You commune with yourselves alone?

R. G. T. COVENTRY.

IN the *Quarterly Journal of Forestry* for January there occurs, in an account of the summer meeting of the Royal English Arboricultural Society, what is very properly described as an excellent example of the advantage to the landowner of direct conversion. The holiday was taken in the Lake Country with Penrith as a centre, and the wood in question is situated in the neighbourhood of Matmire plantation. The area was approximately eight acres in extent and was cut in the early part of 1917 for pit-props and crown trees. The trees were counted and their volumes estimated. The cost of conversion worked out to 6d. per cubic foot, including felling at ¾d. The crop averaged 1,500 cubic feet per acre, making a total of 12,000 cubic feet. The value realised for timber converted, f.o.r., was £1,240. The cost of haulage to mill, felling, conversion and haulage to railway, £238 18s., this being the actual figure. The net value of the timber, therefore, was £1,001 2s. In round figures the value of the timber was increased from £50 per acre to £125 per acre by virtue of selling converted instead of standing. The equipment for converting the timber cost £185. As the writer of the report very truly indicates, this is a matter of very great interest to the owner of timber.

FIGHTING THE SMOKE NUISANCE

FACTORY SMOKE AT SHEFFIELD—II.

By OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

IN last week's issue some account of the progress made in Sheffield was given. Put in

figures, chimneys which fifteen years ago emitted dense smoke from forty to fifty minutes in the hour, which is only a more precise way of stating that they belched out smoke day and night, have now been induced to do so for, on a yearly average, only 2.2 mins. an hour. This improvement did not follow directly on the passing of the Public Health Act of 1875. For ten or fifteen years the Act was not administered, and Sheffield was wrapped in dense smoke even when the sun was shining brilliantly just outside it. Mr. Nicholson had been busy demonstrating to the owners the efficacy

of certain changes which he advocated, and the improvement was due to their recognition that he had got on to the right lines for getting rid of smoke without sacrificing profit. The result of adopting the more recent smokeless and economical furnaces was that Sheffield began to qualify as a health resort. The sun, after being shut out for years, began to look in again. The increase of sunshine was accompanied by a falling in the death rate from 21.5 in 1889 to 15.8 in 1913. Although it is difficult to ascribe an improvement in health to any one condition more than another, less disease is so obvious an effect of more sunshine that it is difficult to believe that one was not a result of the other.



SHEFFIELD AND ITS SMOKE.
Not a bad negative as might be supposed.

Physicians in these days wax eloquent upon the healing power of sunlight.

As bearing on this we show photographs of the two great manufacturing towns of Sheffield and Manchester. The idea of obtaining them was suggested by the late Mr. C. D. Leng. In travelling from London to Sheffield by aeroplane he was shocked to discover that without exception every town approachable on the way had above it a veil of mist. It was thin above a clean non-manufacturing town like Harrogate and extremely thick over the manufacturing towns. At Sheffield it lay like a dark impenetrable fog over the city, and the pilot would

not have dared to land but for the company of one who had a life-time knowledge of the place, who directed him how to land. The photographs of the town, it will be observed, look like mere smudges, as if they had been unskilfully taken. As a matter of fact, they are the work of the same expert who under favourable conditions produced the delightfully clear negative of the Manchester docks at a moment when the wind had blown away the fog. The reader desirous of understanding the conditions must get it well into his mind that it is the smoke cloud and not the operator to which the result is to be traced. These photographs were selected from a number that showed the great manufacturing towns wrapped up in the same impenetrable and depressing fog.



MORE OF SHEFFIELD AND ITS SMOKE.
Streets dimly visible through the smoke.

The effects extend far beyond the confines of the town. Dr. J. S. Owens has now proved by the instrument we illustrated a fortnight ago that the London atmosphere spreads out fifty miles round the metropolis and, though we cannot give an exact distance, the work of the smoke fiend may be traced on the grass and arable, and particularly on the beautiful moorland adjoining Sheffield.

How is such a regrettable state of things to be remedied without injuring industries vital to the welfare of the country? Let us glance at a few of the suggestions. The most practical, in our opinion, is that which aims at securing uniformity. At present each local authority has the option of adopting the smoke abatement clauses of the Public Health Act of 1875. Some do and a number do not. Of the former a proportion do not administer the Act very keenly. It would be unsafe to neglect the fact that a great many of the magistrates are themselves manufacturers and affected by the Act. The offender is generally a neighbour of their own class, so that they are naturally reluctant to impose penalties that would guard against a repetition of the offence. For this the obvious remedy is to appoint a stipendiary and make the adoption of the Act compulsory.

At the same time, the manufacturer is entitled to special consideration. He is naturally a firm believer in the methods by which the reputation of his product has been made. On the other hand, he has learned in the keen competition to which he is exposed to keep an eye open for improvements. When he gathers that two of the chief causes of smoke are removable in a way that lessens costs instead of increasing them he has shown himself willing to learn. The two points are bad stoking

and wasteful consumption of coal. A common way of attending to the firing is to send a boy whose notion is to pile up as much coal as he can; and often a different boy is sent to the job next time, who repeats the process. There seems to be agreement among those who know that it is cheaper in the long run to employ an expert man to stoke and do nothing else. Again, the Medical Officer of Health should have under him a first rate scientific man as Smoke Inspector. The latter should be accustomed to take observations, and when anything is wrong study the matter and find a remedy. In nearly every case this remedy will mean lessened combustion and, therefore, lessened expense. Experience has shown that when an owner is convinced that he can do his work as effectively and with less expense by adopting advice thus tendered he does not hesitate, but takes the matter up with zest.

The late Mr. C. D. Leng was a great advocate for the substitution of gas for coal. He allowed that there might be one or two purposes for which it was unsuitable, but that they were few and unimportant. One of his strong points was that the cost of transport is so much less in one case than another. Coal nowadays costs a great deal even in Sheffield, where seven and sixpence a ton used in the good old days to be paid for it at the pit mouth. Then the increase of wages has reacted strongly on the cost of haulage, while the transport of gas is very cheap. It comes along the main almost free. Gas is used successfully in many steel processes, as, for example, annealing large castings, also for annealing all kinds of low and high carbon steel. Mr. Nicholson pins his faith to a slightly amended Public



MANCHESTER DOCKS SMOTHERED IN SMOKE CLOUD.



AFTER THE WIND HAS CLEARED THE AIR.

Health Act. He has done splendid work in Sheffield and is the expert alluded to by Lord Curzon when speaking in support of Lord Newton's Bill in 1914. He described how horrified he was when he was sent out as Viceroy of India to find that the extent to which the beautiful climate of Bengal was vitiated and injury was being done to public buildings and the amenities of the place by the smoke of the great factories that are always growing up round Calcutta. But he got an expert from Sheffield

in the person of Mr. Nicholson, who "delivered a most excellent report." Upon that, legislation in Bengal was based, and it is instructive to recall the measures taken. "We set up a Smoke Commission—half official, half non-official—with power to inspect. We made rules as regards the construction of furnaces. So successful was the measure that in less than three years the average emission of dense smoke from these tall chimneys in Calcutta diminished by over 80 per cent."

PROGRESS OF LAND SETTLEMENT

NOW that the Government has closed the list of applications for small holdings from those who want to take advantage of the preference to ex-Service men, which was done on December 1st, 1920, it may be useful to set out what is the present position. The printed returns from the Ministry of Agriculture yield the needful figures for England and Wales (the Scottish problem is dealt with separately in Edinburgh and is excluded from this survey). Of the 47,943 ex-soldiers who had registered their claims up to December 1st, 11,104 had either been rejected as unsuitable or had withdrawn, 10,834 still await interview, 26,005 have been approved as suitable, and 15,847 of the approved are still waiting for their holdings.

Putting the achievement in a more positive way, 12,279 persons have, in fact, been settled on the land since the beginning of the year 1919, a small proportion of them being civilians, and a still smaller quota being women who had qualified by working six months on the land during the war. As 12,279 is only about 2,000 short of the total number of men settled on statutory holdings from the passing of the 1908 Small Holdings Act until the war began, no one can accuse the Government of not facing up squarely to the fulfilment of their pledge to the ex-Service man.

But the number of new settlers is not a fair measure of what has been done. Since January 1st, 1919, over 268,000 acres have been acquired for the purpose, of which less than two-thirds is actually taken up by settlers, the balance being in course of being provided with the necessary cottages and farm buildings or being still in farmers' hands until Lady Day or Michaelmas next. In round figures 18,000 settlers will be provided for on the land already acquired. Until the County Councils have finished interviewing all their applicants, the precise size of the task to be completed remains unknown, but it is likely that at the very least 180,000 acres will still have to be acquired to satisfy 13,000 ex-Service men. Probably 200,000 acres is nearer the mark. Behind them is a long queue of about 13,000 civilian applicants. As the provision of small holdings is hopelessly uneconomic with the present rate of interest on loans and the intolerable cost of building, the civilian's chances of being provided with anything but bare land without buildings recedes into the dim future, and his hopes of getting even bare land will not begin to brighten until August, 1923, when as now proposed the soldier's preference will cease.

DIFFICULTIES OF ACQUIRING LAND.

What is the finance of all this? We know that Parliament provided that the State should lend the County Councils twenty millions for the capital cost of the scheme and should pay the annual losses, but the House of Commons did not foresee how urgent would be the demand for land. So it became obvious a few months ago that a larger capital sum would be needed. A circular just issued by the Ministry of Agriculture sets out the decisions of the Cabinet following a full survey of the facts. The chief of them is that County Councils shall buy no more land for cash (unless they like to raise loans for the purpose locally), but shall either purchase for County Annuities or take on lease. During the last two years of acquisition about 95 per cent. of the land secured has been for cash, but now it must be got for annuities, and it is as well for landowners to remember that County Councils hold in reserve the compulsory powers, granted to them last year, to take a lease for anything from fourteen to thirty-five years. Such a lease is bad business for the landowner, for who will buy from him landed estate, well knowing that he must put up with tenants not of his own choosing for perhaps a generation?

County Annuities are not yet a popular investment for the excellent reason that they are little known, and until they are well known they will not be so readily marketable as Corporation or County Council stocks. Nevertheless, as County Councils may fix them on a six per cent. basis, the terms are generous enough, and as they are secured on the County rate and not like a perpetual rent charge merely on the land purchased, they

are as sound an investment as anyone can wish, and they can be either perpetual or terminable in thirty years.

The Ministry has shown a very reasonable spirit in laying this new policy of land acquisition before the County Councils who have to administer it, for it has asked the Councils in no case to issue a Compulsory Leasing Order until after they have offered to purchase for an annuity.

COTTAGE BUILDING.

By these means the Ministry is able to reserve the last four millions of the twenty for building alone and this sum will be released only to pay for cottages and farm buildings on "annuity land" or leased land henceforward to be acquired. It is not necessary to repeat how exceedingly difficult the provision of cottages has become, owing alike to cost and to the shortage of building labour, occasioned by the obstinate resistance of the Trade Unions to the Government's very reasonable proposals for bringing newly trained ex-Service men into the crafts of bricklaying, plumbing, plastering, etc. The figures of what is required if the land already secured for settlement is to be equipped are illuminating enough. About 2,200 new cottages and 1,560 sets of farm buildings are needed at once, but the Counties are so grievously hampered in getting on with their task that only 1,020 cottages and 540 farm buildings are under way, and many of those have made practically no progress. Of the first sixteen millions of money allocated to County schemes about four millions should be spent on building, road-making, water supply and fencing, but Councils have only been able to arrange to spend about £1,700,000, or less than half the money that is ready and waiting for them. Moreover, this includes about £430,000 which is being spent on adapting old buildings, such as turning a farmhouse into two cottages, so the commitments on wholly new buildings do not amount to much more than a million. Unless the Councils can speed up their building programme, it will be a long time before they spend the total of eight millions they need to put into bricks and mortar, but until that is done the ex-Service men will shiver in continual disappointment.

LIMIT OF SIZE OF HOLDINGS.

The Government have become awake to the excessive amount of capital required in these days to provide land and buildings for a forty or fifty acre dairy holding, which may easily run to £4,000 or more. Obviously it is not reasonable to invest so much of the State's hardly borrowed money to set up one small holder in agriculture. No man could take such a holding unless he had from £1,000 to £1,500 of his own to stock it, and if he is so well off as that, he can reasonably be expected to rent a holding in the open market on an economic basis. The pledge to ex-Service men was to those who really needed State help to establish them on the land, and we welcome the new rule that no new Statutory holding shall be created at a greater cost than £2,500. It is an obvious piece of common sense.

LIMITING THE ANNUAL LOSS.

County Councils have also been curbed in their expenditure by another reasonable regulation. When they have bought an estate and set about the task of dividing it up and providing the needful buildings they have to scheme it so that the annual loss, which falls on the State, shall be strictly limited, according to the size of the holding. The maximum annual loss allowed is £25 in the case of the smallest holding and £70 for the largest. These figures are high enough, but if they were reduced any further it would mean that County Councils could not create holdings at all. One exception only is allowed: in the case of cottage holdings for disabled men the Ministry will consider schemes above the maximum scale on their merits. No one will grudge this sympathetic attitude towards the men who have lost in their country's service the joy of being able-bodied.

THE NEXT STEPS.

Now that the list is closed, the Councils can soon estimate with accuracy what their task will be. That will give the measure of the acreage yet to be acquired and the building yet to be done. The new Small Holdings Sub-Committees of

the County Agricultural Committees are now being established, in some cases are already at work. With a personnel drawn from a wider field than before and with re-modelled staffs, they may be relied upon to tackle their difficult task with a new energy and a certain success.

VINDEK.

THE CRIB AT FARM STREET

BY J. B. TREND.

EVERY spectacle, says the Spanish proverb, lies within the spectator himself. It has no meaning for you, no existence even, unless it suggests something which you have heard of before; the train of thought by which you connect the new thing with the old is, after all, the most important effect of seeing anything. This is never so true as it is at Christmastime, and it was an obvious reflection after seeing the Mystery performed at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, the Nativity Play at the Everyman Theatre and the groups representing the Nativity and the Epiphany which Mr. Percy Macquoid and Mr. Philip Harker have put up lately at the church in Farm Street. The appeal of such things is universal; but in England the tradition has been broken for many hundreds of years. It belongs to pre-Reformation Christianity, and it

belongs also to the earliest stages of modern drama. The groups at Farm Street show the Mystery Play in an early stage of its development, before the characters began to speak or to move; they are a show like those in which people stopped to look at one "act" arranged on a cart in the street, until they had seen enough, and then moved on to look at the next.

In Mediterranean countries the tradition has never ceased to exist. In Spain and in Italy such groups are not only put up in church, but they are brought out into the sun and carried round the town in procession. Many people have seen these "pasos" in the processions at Seville in Holy Week and at Corpus Christi. Some have been to Cadiz, where (by all accounts) the same thing is done rather better; and at Murcia the figures are unsurpassed in Spain for the beauty of their



THE NATIVITY.



THE EPIPHANY.

workmanship. Mr. Macquoid and Mr. Harker have the credit for what is probably the best designed group of the kind to be seen anywhere. What suggestions does it not bring, what memories, to anyone who has wandered in Italy and followed the story of the Madonna in countless altar-pieces! Above all it suggests certain pictures of the Venetian School; indeed, the only thing lacking is the group of angel-musicians playing the recorder, lute and viol on the steps of the throne.

In Italy and in Spain certain events of sacred history are celebrated dramatically. At Florence the "scoppio del carro" (the setting off of a cart full of fireworks) is still effected as part of the Easter festival. At rather out of the way hill towns, like Orvieto, may be seen a dramatic suggestion of the Day of Pentecost, in which the Dove descends on a wire with a firework in its beak and lights candles (Roman candles, of course) in the hands of a group of apostles set up in front of the cathedral. At Seville the memory of David dancing before the Ark of the Covenant is kept alive by the ten little boys who dance and sing and clack their castanets before the Host at Corpus; while at Elche the Passing of the Blessed Virgin is celebrated by a sacred music-drama sung in the cathedral in which the episodes of the story, including the Assumption and Coronation, are represented visually by real people.

Of the religious significance of these things there is no need to speak, but the poetry of them is not less expressive. It appeals to that side of everyone's nature which enjoys fairy stories and nursery rhymes. At Farm Street a small person is sure to appear from somewhere and ask excitedly whether you want to see the "crib." At Orvieto when the Dove descended there were frantic cries of "Look, il Pigione!"

And at Elche the worldliness of two old men was turned once more to childlike wonder. "No, Don Manuel," said a man standing next me in the crowd, "it won't do! Appointments are appointments and. . . ." A sudden burst of applause made him look up at the dome, where at that moment a youth in a kind of trapeze was dangling a golden crown over the head of the image of Our Lady. "By God," he cried, "that's pretty! *Viva la Santissima Trinidad!*"

To realise the poetry of the groups at Farm Street they must be regarded with the clear, untroubled imagination of a child. Then it will seem reasonable and inevitable that the Good News should be brought—

To shepherds at their midnight lambings,
To stealthy poachers on their rounds.

What could be more natural (as a Roman poet asked in the seventeenth century) than to call the nearest shepherd to see the Lamb of God? For the group of the Epiphany (in which the figures of St. Joseph and the shepherds are replaced by the richly clad forms of the Three Kings) one should remember that in Spain it is the Three Kings in person who bring Christmas presents. They are known in many mythologies—the three Fates or three witches or three fairies who come to the christening with gifts or prophecies. The poetry of Christmas is universal; few are likely to forget the Christmas of 1914 when the "meek-eyed Peace," of whom Milton dreamed, "came softly sliding down through the turning sphere" and spontaneously descended for a few days upon the trenches in Flanders. Most children, especially in Spain and Italy, must feel that they themselves were once like the Bambino; and every mother knows that she has been like the Madonna herself.



IN the autumn of 1731, the marble parlour or dining-room being still incomplete, the hall was the scene of high feasting. Francis Duke of Lorraine, and afterwards husband of Maria Theresa and Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, came to England, and the fiat went forth from the Court that the German Prince should be freely and nobly entertained by leaders of society. His visit to these shores having political significance, it was clearly part of the programme that the Prime Minister should receive him at his splendid new seat, although it was still in some respects unfinished. It was an occasion when Sir Robert might

reasonably consider that his public duty combined with his love of splendour and expense to loose his purse strings, and we are told that the head of the confectionery art in England came down from London with his staff to prepare an adequate dessert, and that vehicles laden with delicacies daily travelled the ninety miles that separate Houghton from the capital. Soon after the duke had gone Sir Thomas Robinson of Rokely is a guest at Houghton and finds that the reception of the duke is still a main theme of conversation. In a letter which he writes to his brother-in-law, the Earl of Carlisle, in December, after he had left, he says:

During the Duke of Lorraine's being there the consumption both from the larder and the cellar was prodigious. They dined in the hall, which was lighted by 130 wax candles, and the saloon with 50; the whole expense in that article being computed at fifteen pounds a night.

The interest of this letter, however, lies not in this paragraph, but in quite a long description of the house and grounds and the manner of life there. Sir Thomas had returned from Italy in 1716 imbued with classic art and Palladian principles, posed as one of the leading exponents of this style in England, and gave advice on, if he did not invent, some of the finishing touches of his brother-in-law's vast pile of Castle Howard, near to which Vanbrugh had, with Wakefield as his understudy, also erected Duncombe Park, mentioned by Sir Thomas as larger than Houghton, which nevertheless is—

the best house in the world for its size, capable of the greatest reception for company, and the most convenient state apartments, very noble, especially the hall and saloon. The finishing of the inside is, I think a pattern for all great houses that may hereafter be built; the vast quantity of mahogany, all the doors, window-shutters, best staircase, &c, being entirely of that wood; the finest chimnies of statuary and other fine marbles; the ceilings in the modern taste by Italians, painted by Mr. Kent, and finely gilt; the furniture of the richest tapestry, &c; the pictures hung on Genoa velvet and damask; this one article is the price of a good house, for in one drawing-room there are to the value of three thousand pounds; in short, the whole expense of this place must be a prodigious sum, and, I think, all done in a fine taste.

The saloon (Fig. 1) is, no doubt, referred to as the room with the costly hangings, although the velvet on the walls is not



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1.—THE SALOON.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

The walls are hung with silk and wool cut velvet. The great doorway leads to the hall.



Copyright.

2.—THE WEST OR WINDOW SIDE OF THE SALOON.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

The window doorway, all of mahogany with the carved parts gilt, matches that facing it and giving into the hall. The side tables and mirror frames, like the rest of the furniture, are designed by Kent.



3.—THE EAST WALL OF THE SOUTH-WEST CHAMBER.



Copyright. 4.—THE SALOON CHIMNEYPiece. "C.L."
Composed of "black and gold" and Carrara marble. The Star and Garter occupies the central panel, and the bust above is an antique.

of the richest, the pile being of wool and not of silk, that material being limited to thin threads of yellow over the crimson background, thus throwing up the full crimson pattern. Other rooms were hung with damasks, tapestries and plain velvet, but the cut or "Genoa" type was limited to the saloon. Of none of these luxurious materials do we know the right cost, the only accounts for stuffs that survive being £22 4s. for 74yds. of "fine green chinee," supplied in 1720 to the "hon^{ble} M^{rs} Walpole" by Samuel Dunklyn and Co.; and one dated 1724 from P. Bodham and Co. for supplying 242yds. of "yellow Camblet," at a cost of £24 2s., used for curtains and upholstery, including a bed 13ft. high. These dates, being prior to the completion of the new Houghton, imply goods for the old house or for London or Chelsea, and there is much furniture at Houghton clearly dating from the days of Anne or George I which may have come from any of these other Walpole homes. Thus Bodhams, in the same year, supply "Twelve Walnut wood chairs with India backs and Seats, veneer'd, at 13/- each." There are many sets of simple cabriole-legged walnut chairs, with either stuffed or splat backs, distributed about the second floor chambers, and to one of these the above item may well apply. But the £1,420 8s. 7½d. "less £200 by cash" which is owed to Thomas Roberts for furniture in April, 1729, may refer to the requirements of the new house, although not to the sumptuous gilt sets which occur in the chief rooms and especially in the saloon (Fig. 1), where the set of twelve armchairs (Fig. 11), four stools and two settees, in mahogany, part gilt, with mask knees and shell aprons, and covered with cut velvet similar to that on the walls, declare, by their form and detail, the direct authorship of Kent. The same lines and motifs are found in the all-gilt stands of the great marble-topped tables, of which the largest (Fig. 13) occupies the middle of the south wall, facing the chimneypiece. It is by no means either heavy or clumsy, being of a richness and elaboration suited to so important a place in so sumptuous a room; but there is more charm about the smaller pair (Fig. 14) standing between the windows. There is grace about the lines of the scroll legs and stretchers and in the wreaths and leafage, while the boy sitting in the great shell and supporting the central ornament is delightful in conception and execution. They show Kent at his very best, and are part of a complete design that includes the great mirrors (Fig. 2) above them, and yet is merely a detail in the unified scheme of this great and grand apartment which has remained untouched since Horace Walpole in 1743 described it as:

The Saloon: 40 Feet long, forty high & thirty wide: the Hanging is Crimson flower'd Velvet, the Ceiling painted by Kent, who design'd all the Ornament, throughout the Houfe: Chimney and tables of Black and Gold Marble, antique bust of Venus in chimney pediment, a larger antique bust over the garden door.

The garden doorway (Fig. 2), except for the broken pediment, matches that opposite, opening from the hall. They are 10ft. 6ins. wide from out to out of the plinths of the columns, and are composed of mahogany with carvings and enrichment gilt. The hall door has a broken architrave, but in the garden door the deep return is edged with an unbroken egg and tongue moulding got out of stuff 3½ins. square, each "egg" being 2½ins. across, such large sizes being merely proportionate to the big scale of the whole. Horace Walpole is in error in saying that the height is 40ft. The general height of the first floor rooms is 18ft.; that of those on the ground and second floors 12ft. Above the latter are garrets 10ft. high. Now, the hall walls are of the whole height of the first and second floors, and its coved ceiling takes up the garret space, so that the height is 40ft. But the saloon, with its 30ft. width, would have been out of proportion had it been more than 30ft. high. The walls, therefore, are only 18ft. up to the deep entablature which occupies the second floor or "attic" space up to the window sills,

and the upper saloon windows are contrived within arches of the great ceiling cove. Here Kent has allowed a little more than chiaroscuro. There is much gold in the ceiling besides its great mouldings, gilding being introduced in the imitation mosaic background of both the decorative and pictorial panels, the colouring of which is white, grey and brown, while in the drawing-rooms on each side of the saloon a little red and green are also used. The yellow-veined black marble which, with Carrara for the sculptured parts, composes the chimneypiece was then very much prized and called, as we have seen, "black and gold." Although pedimented, the chimneypiece (Fig. 4) is arranged

Dining-room of the old Houfe built by Sir Edward Walpole, grandfather to Sir Robert.

This is the only direct reference to this previous rebuilding of the Walpole house, but we have seen that the foundations have been located. The copied ceiling has exactly the same scheme of panels and the same soffit enrichment as we find in the Coleshill hall, and the frieze is a narrow edition of that in the saloon of that house designed by Inigo Jones and Pratt, but not completed till 1662, which may well be the date of Sir Edward's building. The chimneypiece of what is now called the green drawing-room (Fig. 7) is of white marble, but has a very



Copyright. 5.—A VISTA SHOWING THE FIVE ROOMS COMPOSING THE WESTERN SUITE.

"C.L."

to take a superstructure of blocks of Carrara with a black moulding rising behind and up to the level of the pediment. On this retablo there stands, in Kent's design given by Ware, a great architectural picture frame in the manner of those between the windows, but, as the velvet stretches right across without any mark, it may never have been executed.

South of the saloon is the drawing-room once "hung with yellow Caffoy," as Horace Walpole phrases it, and adds:

The Ceiling is exactly taken, except with the Alteration of the Paternal Coat for the Star and Garter, from one that was in the

inadequate shelf. Kent's design shows it with a broken pediment and a female bust resting on a console. As Horace Walpole tells us that "over the Chimney is a genteel Buft of a *Madonna* in Marble by Camillo Rufconi," it is evident that Kent's design was once complete, but that the upper part has been removed, as well as the "Carving by Gibbins gilt" which Horace Walpole notes above it. There is a fine set of gilt ball and claw-footed furniture in this room, having sofa and stools and half a dozen armchairs with eagle-headed arms (Fig. 12). Therein, and in the honeysuckle decoration of knees and apron, it differs

from the somewhat similar set noted last week in the hall, two armchairs of which are now illustrated (Figs. 9 and 10).

Beyond the green drawing-room and occupying the south-west tower space is the family or "Blue Damask" bed-chamber (Fig. 3), having a charming wainscoted east wall, with marble chimneypiece and mahogany door-cases of comparatively quiet but excellent design. The other walls are tapestry hung, but at the time the photograph was taken these had been removed for repair.

Sir Robert was a great purchaser of tapestries, but not made for him and mostly dating before his time. He not only purchased sets for half a dozen or more rooms, but was open to offers for others. His brother, Horatio, Ambassador in Paris, was evidently on the look out to meet the possible requirements of his brother or of other wealthy Englishmen. Thus, in 1727, he hears of and sees a set of Gobelins consisting of six wall pieces and also of settees, two "Canopies," ten elbow chairs and a screen, to cost £1,145 16s. 8d. (the equivalent of 25,000 French livres), and belonging to Jans, Tapestry Maker to the King, who had already made a set for Burghley House.

of the greatest men I ever saw & heard of" and that all men he meets in his travels agree with this opinion. But his endeavour appears to have been fruitless, as the "Rebecca" does not seem to be one of the many canvases by Maratti which Horace Walpole catalogues as hanging in the room, the *chef-d'œuvre* being his "Pope Clement IX" over the chimneypiece. The chimneypiece (Fig. 6) is one of Kent's best. The fire arch is of "black and gold" marble, but all the rest of Carrara, and the boy-headed flanking consoles are, perhaps, the choicest element in a splendidly executed design. Here, as in the saloon, Kent designed a retable on which to place a great architectural frame, but whether such was provided for the "Clement IX" we do not know. The walls were originally hung with green velvet as a suitable background to the Marattis, but after his great-nephew, Lord Cholmondeley, followed Horace Walpole as owner of Houghton in 1797, the then pictureless walls were redecorated, a fine flowered silk—said to have been a present from the Prince Regent—being hung in panels. Of Kent's time the chimneypiece and the ceiling are survivors and also two side tables. The one between the



Copyright.

6.—CHIMNEYPIECE IN THE WHITE DRAWING-ROOM.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

Jans adds: "All that this tapestry represents hath been painted on the Spot in the Indies by order of the late King of Glorious Memory. So that Truth is found in what is designed thereupon," which includes "all that is most curious in the East and West Indies." The letter, preserved in the Houghton muniment room, is in French as well as in English, and the cost is to include the addition of the arms of "the Lord that this work will suit." It would seem that it did not suit Sir Robert, as there is no trace of such tapestries ever having been at Houghton.

From the other side of the saloon we enter what is now called the white drawing-room (Fig. 8), but which Horace Walpole names after the Italian master whose pictures enriched the walls. In what high esteem Carlo Maratti was held by Sir Robert is seen by a letter written to him from Rome in 1737 by one Thorne, urging him to purchase a canvas "by your favourite painter." It was Maratti's History of Rebecca, and Thorne can not only procure this, but also eight Poussins "in pawn at Prince Pamfili's, who nether does understand them or cares for them." So eager is Thorne to do business that he ends by telling Sir Robert that he considers him "one

of the greatest men I ever saw & heard of" and that all men he meets in his travels agree with this opinion. But his endeavour appears to have been fruitless, as the "Rebecca" does not seem to be one of the many canvases by Maratti which Horace Walpole catalogues as hanging in the room, the *chef-d'œuvre* being his "Pope Clement IX" over the chimneypiece. The chimneypiece (Fig. 6) is one of Kent's best. The fire arch is of "black and gold" marble, but all the rest of Carrara, and the boy-headed flanking consoles are, perhaps, the choicest element in a splendidly executed design. Here, as in the saloon, Kent designed a retable on which to place a great architectural frame, but whether such was provided for the "Clement IX" we do not know. The walls were originally hung with green velvet as a suitable background to the Marattis, but after his great-nephew, Lord Cholmondeley, followed Horace Walpole as owner of Houghton in 1797, the then pictureless walls were redecorated, a fine flowered silk—said to have been a present from the Prince Regent—being hung in panels. Of Kent's time the chimneypiece and the ceiling are survivors and also two side tables. The one between the



7.—THE DRAWING-ROOM LYING SOUTH OF THE SALOON.
Now hung with and called green, but originally with "yellow caftoy."



8.—THE WHITE DRAWING-ROOM LYING NORTH OF THE SALOON.
Formerly the Carlo Maratti room.
"C.L."



9.—ELBOW CHAIR OF A LARGE SET, MOSTLY IN THE HALL.

Gilt and upholstered in green velvet.

Although less typical of Kent than the saloon set, all the *motifs*, such as the ring and scale patterns on the arms, are usual with him.

the first occasion when the new house was sufficiently complete for those large and convivial house parties which were the late autumn feature of Houghton during the few remaining years of Sir Robert's life. That he was an excellent host we know from Sir Thomas Robinson, whose visit so closely followed that of the German Prince and who tells us:

We were generally between 20 and 30 at two tables, and as much cheerfulness and good nature as I ever saw where the company was so numerous. Young Lady Walpole and Mrs Hamond (Sir Robert Walpole's sister) were the only two ladies. Sir Robert does the honours of his house extremely well, and so as to make it perfectly agreeable to everyone who lives with him. They



10.—ARMCHAIR OF THE SAME SET.

Note the repetition of the lion mask knee *motif* at the ends of the arms.

hunted six days in the week, three times with Lord Walpole's fox-hounds, and thrice with Sir Robert's harriers and indeed 'tis a very fine open country for sport.

It was not only in the planning and equipment of the house itself that Sir Robert sought to produce the choicest and freshest effects known to his contemporaries. The rearrangement, almost the re-creation, of the whole environment was within his scheme, and Sir Thomas Robinson writes to Lord Carlisle:

The enclosure of the Park contains seven hundred acres, very finely planted, and the ground laid out to the greatest advantage. The gardens are about 40 acres, which are only fenced from the Park by a fosse, and I think very prettily disposed. Sir



11.—ONE OF THE SALOON SET BY KENT.

It consists of twelve armchairs, four stools and two settees, and, like all the fittings of the room, is of mahogany with the carved parts gilt.



12.—ARMCHAIR IN THE GREEN DRAWING-ROOM.

It is one of a set, gilt, with ball and claw feet and eagle-head arms, covered in silk damask.

Robert and Bridgeman showed me the large design for the plantations in the country, which is the present undertaking; they are to be plumps and avenues to go quite round the Park pale, and to make straight and oblique lines of a mile or two in length, as the situation of the country admits of. This design will be about 12 miles in circumference, and nature has disposed of the country so as these plantations will have a very noble and fine effect; and at every angle there are to be obelisks, or some other building. In short, the out-works at Houghton will be 200 years hence what those at Castle Howard are now, for he has very little full-grown timber, and not a drop of water for ornament; but take all together, it is a seat so perfectly magnificent and agreeable, that I think nothing but envy itself can find fault because there is no more of the one, and I scarce missed the entire want of the other.

Sir Robert's predecessors had added to the practical value rather than to the amenities of the estate. His father had been a leading agriculturist and thought more of arable fields than of park lands and timber. Thus the story arose that the rooks used to fight lustily over possession for nesting purposes of the only three old oaks that there were. Sir Robert revolutionised all this and began afforesting in 1717. A list quoted by Mr. Broome shows that during the ensuing forty years 377 acres of woods, clumps and avenues were planted, the active period being from 1724 to the time of Sir Thomas Robinson's visit. The problem was to obtain the utmost outlook and feeling of extent from the house, which lies at the base of the westward undulations. Ripley is said to have advised a site on the top of one of these, but Sir Robert would not stir from the proximity of the old house and of the church. Yet there is a wide prospect. The formal school had reached its limits when the Duke of Montagu had avenued the whole district round Boughton, and when the Duke of Beaufort's "lines" had been carried beyond the boundaries of the Badminton estate by his neighbours "out of complement." Thus, when Houghton was being rebuilt, there had come the reaction which Kent was to lead. In 1734 we hear that "a general alteration of some of the most considerable gardens in the Kingdom is begun after Mr. Kent's notion of gardening," his system being defined as working "without level or line." But before he had taken up this further outlet to his activities, Bridgeman had been engaged for the Houghton layout. He—to quote Horace Walpole—"banished verdant sculpture" and "disdained to make every division tally to its opposite." The same authority informs us that it is not he but "Mr. Eyre, an imitator,"



Copyright.

13.—THE GREAT SIDE-TABLE IN THE SALOON.

"C.L."

This is the largest and most typical example of Kent's furniture at Houghton.



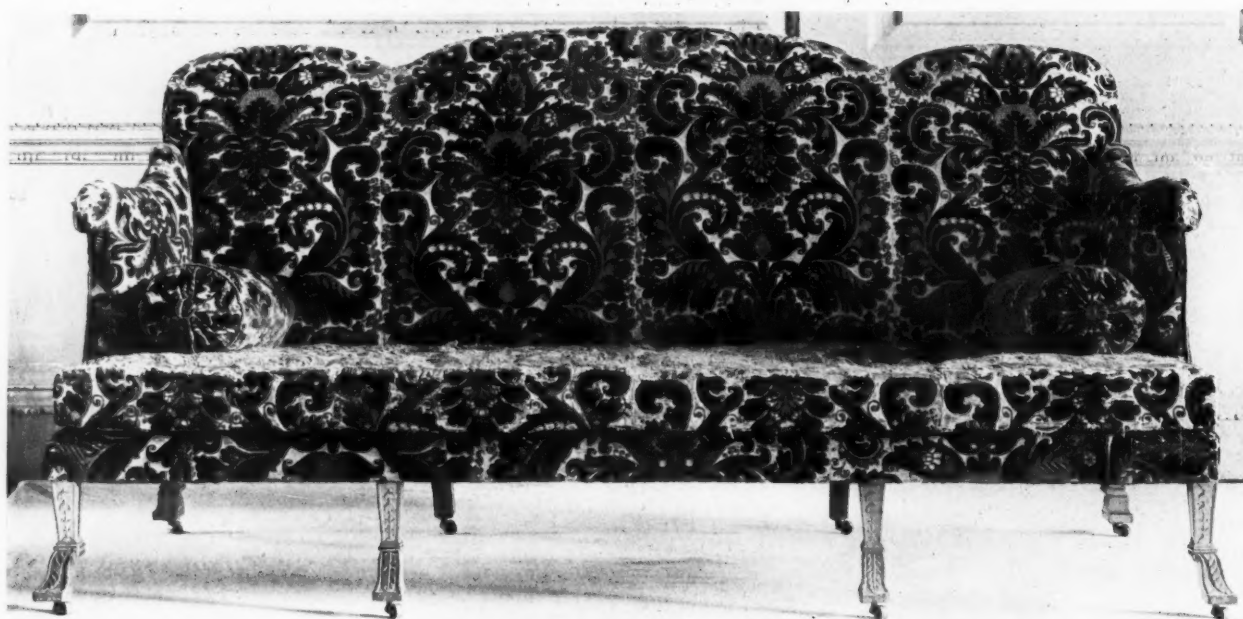
14.—ONE OF THE PAIR OF LESSER SIDE-TABLES IN THE SALOON.



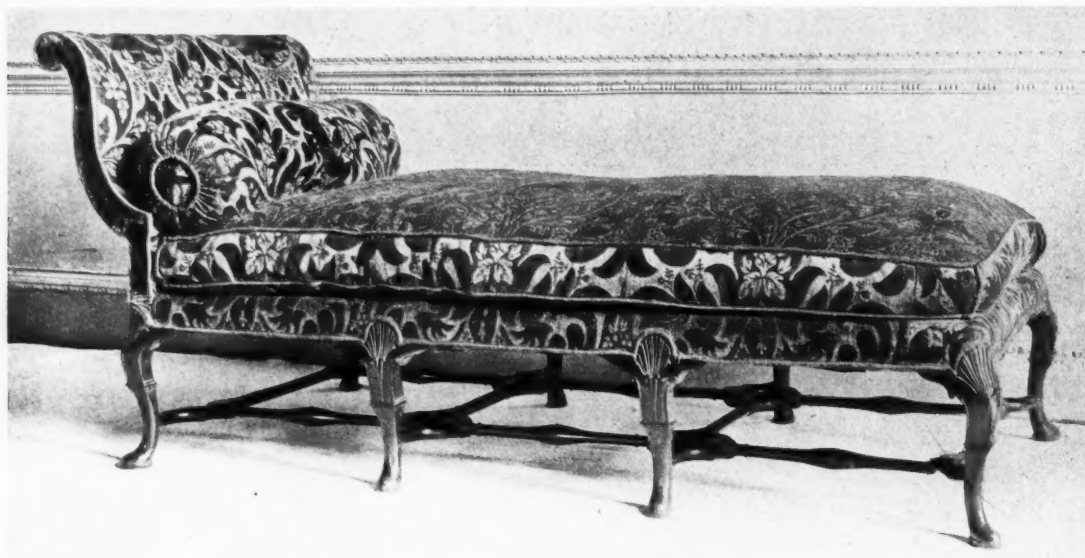
15.—A GILT MARBLE-TOPPED SIDE-TABLE IN THE WHITE DRAWING-ROOM.



Copyright. 16.—WRITING TABLE IN THE LIBRARY. "COUNTRY LIFE."
Of mahogany with gilt enrichments. The baluster legs, bun feet and flat serpentine stretchers are in the manner of the William III period, although the date will be later.



Copyright. 17.—A SOFA IN THE SALOON. "COUNTRY LIFE."
It is 7ft. 6ins. long and covered in all silk cut velvet. The upholstery of the frame, so as to cover the knees of the legs, is an early example of the transition from the cabriole to the straight-leg period.



Copyright. 18.—WALNUT DAY BED IN THE LIBRARY. "COUNTRY LIFE."
It is upholstered in cut velvet. The legs, of cabriole form with shell knees and club feet, are connected with turned stretchers. Circa 1710.

who laid out the Houghton garden. Yet, evidently, the large scheme, of which the forty acres of garden were but a fragment, was not only planned, but supervised by Bridgeman, whom Sir Thomas Robinson meets at Houghton. The sunk wall or "fosse"—on reaching which the surprised visitor exclaimed "Ha, ha!"—was his invention, and for miles beyond it stretches an open area of grass fully as wide as the whole range of building—house, colonnades and wings. This is framed not by lines of trees, but by "plumps"; that is, fenced-in plantations of unequal size and uneven shape, with large spaces of park between them, and hiding ploughed fields behind them, yet from the house and garden showing no break in the woodland effect that frames the broad glade. But north and south of the house the old avenue form was adopted and straight lines of trees carried the eye out to the distant limits of the park. That is entered from the south through the wrought iron grille and gates illustrated a fortnight ago, and the village, which once clustered about house and church, was rebuilt to line the road beyond the gates, so that a note in the parish register reads:

July 4 1729. The foundation dug for the two first houses of the new Town.

Thus, among the many interests that Houghton presents to the student of domestic history is the lay-out, which, though the gay parterres and other garden incidents are gone, retains its features, and is, therefore, the best example we have of the transition period between the formal and landscape schools. The latter rapidly triumphed, Kent being followed by Brown, whose "capability" was so universally established when Gilpin visited Houghton and thought poorly of its exterior amenities.

It is easy to trace from the growth of the woods and the vestiges of hedgerows where the ambition of the minister made his ornamental inroads into the acres of his inheritance. Taste, however, then was not; no Brown at that time existed to conduct the channels of wealth.

The wheel of Taste, like that of Fortune, is capable of many a turn. Brown before long sank to the low level to which Bridgeman was pushed by Gilpin, and what he said of Bridgeman's largest effort, we, in our generation, are inclined to repeat in reference to Brown's clumps and serpentine—"the eye used to juster improvements of taste is everywhere hurt."

H. AVRAY TIPPING.

MILK AND CHILDREN

We have received the following extraordinary letter from a physician in Egypt, and as the views expressed were contrary to those usually held, we submitted it to one or two experts and we publish their replies below:

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—In the "Country Notes" of your issue of October 30th, which has just reached me in Egypt, there is a paragraph about the importance of increasing the consumption of milk. You state: "We all know that this is a most desirable object at which to aim." I venture to criticise this sentence. Milk given to children in excess and at improper times, such as the bread and milk last thing at night which leaves the child with a filthy mouth during its sleep, is one of the causes of dental disease. The truth about milk is that it is the correct food for the suckling only. No child, strictly speaking, requires one drop of milk after it is weaned from its mother's breast. Moderation in everything is the secret of health, and in giving milk to children over two and a half years of age it must be remembered that it is an unnatural form of food and a dangerous form of food unless used with caution and knowledge. It is a standing reproach to the educated women of to-day that they so feed their children that the first set of teeth are decayed at the age of four, and the permanent set often at the age of ten or eleven. With regard to new white bread, fine flour in the shape of biscuits, and commercial sugar in excess, especially in the form of chocolates and sweets, which are the other principal agents in producing this terrible disease, Dr. James Wheatley, the M.O.H. of Shropshire, has produced some astounding figures. In 1914, of the children of five years of age in his schools only 5 per cent. were free from dental disease. Of the children aged twelve to thirteen—that is, with the second set complete, except for the wisdom teeth—only 3 per cent. had escaped. In 1919, after a diet of stale bread almost wholemeal, sugar scarce and sweets almost unobtainable, of the five year olds 44 per cent. were free from dental disease, and of the twelve to thirteen year olds 27 per cent. At present milk is probably not taken in sufficient amount by the poorer children to do much harm. Dr. Sim Wallace of Harley Street and others have proved that it requires very little alteration of our modern diet, and no extra expense, in order to bring children up with sound teeth and healthy mouths. Seeing that dental disease is one of the principal causes of our C3 population, that it is the cause in all probability of gastric ulcer, appendicitis and many other chronic diseases, it seems a pity that the women of the country will not take the trouble to learn how to feed their children correctly, more especially as the prevention costs nothing. No doubt if the prevention cost many millions a year the Minister of Health would take it up with avidity.—PHYSICIAN.

BY PROFESSOR W. R. SIMPSON.

The letter from a physician in Egypt, in which he criticises the views of COUNTRY LIFE that it is of importance to increase the consumption of milk in this country, should not be allowed to pass unchallenged. His statement that "no child, strictly speaking, requires one drop of milk after it is weaned from its mother's breast" is as misleading as it is surprising and incorrect, and would do an immense amount of harm if acted upon. It is as fantastic as another statement that "milk . . . is an unnatural form of food and a dangerous form of food unless used with caution and knowledge." Nothing is to be gained by sweeping and unqualified statements of this kind, which might well frighten mothers, educated and uneducated, into depriving their children of one of the cheapest and most important supplementary foodstuffs they can give to their growing children. No one has ever advocated that children after babyhood should be fed on milk or on bread and milk alone. Pap food by itself is recognised as unsuitable. The full development of the jaw and the muscles of the jaw is dependent largely on exercise as well as on nutriment. Mastication of the food improves the circulation of the blood in the mouth and adjacent parts; hence the value of foodstuffs which need a good deal of chewing, provided they contain the essential elements for the nourishment of the growing child. But it is just this proviso that is often wanting. It was wanting in the new white bread and fine white flour in the shape of biscuits which are mentioned, and was present in the "diet of stale bread almost wholemeal," etc. Everyone will agree with him that milk, like other foods, if given in excess is not good, but every form

of food has to be given with caution and knowledge. It would be difficult, however, to find in this country, or in any other country, where milk is given in excess to children. On the contrary, the usual condition is an insufficient supply, with the result that among the poor we have the stunted growth, the decayed teeth and the rachitic condition so often met with in our towns. No doubt the cleaning of the teeth, especially at night before going to bed, is necessary and important and should be fully impressed on mothers, but the cleaning of the teeth is less important than a sufficient supply in the food of the building and nourishing material for the teeth and body. It is certain that the nutritive constituents necessary for healthy growth are all present in milk, but there is no certainty of them being all present in the mixed diet without milk given to children, especially in view of the large amount of tinned foods, margarine, white bread, polished rice and adulterated foodstuffs now on the market. The addition of milk to the diet compensates for the absence of some of the vital elements which should be present, but often are not, in other articles of diet. It has been established by careful measurements that factory boys and girls between the ages of thirteen and sixteen years drinking milk twice a day, supplementary to their ordinary diet, grow nearly four times as fast as those who drink tea and coffee. The physician is evidently mistaken in his views regarding milk. It is worth mentioning that the peasants of Scotland, of whom there was not a hardier race, used to live chiefly on oatmeal and milk. It was the same with the higher classes until they sojourned south. There are Hindoos to-day who take no animal food beyond that of milk and melted butter, called ghee. Recent American experiments in the University of Maine on students resulted in the conclusion that milk should not be regarded as a luxury, but as an economical article of diet which families of moderate income may freely purchase as a probable means of improving the character of the diet and of cheapening the cost of the supply of animal foods. Further, in cases of sickness this so-called unnatural food is often the chief article of diet which the doctor depends on for bringing his patient safely through the illness which threatens life, and this whether the patient is a child, adult, or old man or woman. There are, unhappily, dangers attached to milk, but these are not due to the composition of the milk, but to the fact that it may be taken from a tuberculous cow or become contaminated through carelessness with infectious material. It is here that care and knowledge are required, and unless the source of the milk is beyond suspicion and its transport, storage and distribution are satisfactory, it should be boiled before being used. This will secure safety and not destroy the nutritive value of the milk.

BY WILFRED BUCKLEY.

"Physician" makes the startling assertion that milk is undesirable for children that have been weaned. He attributes bad teeth, in fact, to the use of milk with bread which, he states, "leaves the child with a filthy mouth during sleep." Surely it is not the use of bread and milk, but the absence of the toothbrush, that brings about this undesirable result. "Physician" refers to the improvement in children's teeth in certain Shropshire schools when they obtained less sugar and no new white bread. But this is no argument against the use of milk; he makes no case against milk. One could quote innumerable valuable opinions in its favour. The Committee on the Production and Distribution of Milk, appointed by the Cabinet in April, 1917, have this to say: "The Committee have already put on record their opinion that the average consumption of milk in the United Kingdom is lower than is desirable in the national interests. Milk contains all the nutritive constituents required by the body—protein, fats and carbohydrate—in a readily assimilable form, which makes it a valuable food for all classes of the community, especially for children." The Medical Research Committee in their Report on the Present State of Knowledge concerning Accessory Food Factors express the opinion that "milk should remain the staple article of diet not only until weaning, but for some years after this time."

THE MEYNELL HUNT

THE Meynell Hunt was founded in 1816 by Mr. Hugo Charles Meynell, a grandson of the famous Master of the Quorn. It is said that Mr. Meynell began with a pack of beagles and had as his right-hand man Tom Leedham, the first of the famous Leedham family who was huntsman to the Meynell Hounds for eighty years, made the pack, and raised the Hunt to be one of the best in England, not even excepting the Shires. The early history of the Meynell is mixed up with that of the Atherstone and, to go further back, with that of Lord Vernon's Hounds. The members of this last Hunt wore flat hats and an orange coat, which may have suggested to Surtees Lord Scamperdale and the Flat Hat Hunt with which Mr. Spongo and Multum-in-parvo distinguished themselves. But the real history of the Meynell Hunt as we know it began with the Meynells and the Leedhams. The first Mr. Meynell's Beagles became harriers, and Tom Leedham was promoted to hunt them on horseback; and then the pack of foxhounds was established. In 1841 Mr. Meynell was succeeded by his son, Hugo Francis Meynell, and old Tom Leedham, who had known the young squire as a boy and taught him to ride, became huntsman. Like all the Leedham family, the old huntsman was decidedly brusque in his manner and no respecter of persons. On one occasion he looked at the Master's horse and exclaimed: "I'm dommed if thou hasn't got a better horse than me"—and he made the Squire of Hoar Cross change with him there and then! Leedham was a good horseman and always with hounds, and so was the elder Mr. Meynell, Tom Leedham's first Master, although he had a curious

trick of catching hold of the cantle of the saddle at a fence. Readers who hunted in Leicestershire in the 'eighties and 'nineties of the last century will remember that Mr. Tailly always did this, and I have known one other Master who had the same habit. In all, three Meynells (or Meynell Ingrams as they became on succeeding to the Ingram property of Temple Newsam in Yorkshire) were Masters of the Meynell country, and after their succession to those estates they took no subscription. When the last Meynell Ingram died as the result of a fall in the hunting field in 1871 Mrs. Meynell Ingram took over the Hunt for a year and then presented the hounds to the country. The property of the pack is now vested in trustees for the benefit of the Hunt, and since 1872 the Meynell has been a subscription Hunt. During the Mastership of Mr. Gerald Hardy the kennel made a great name. He found a good pack built up on the Manager strain from Quorndon and improved it. During the war Mr. Gretton, a very loyal supporter of the county Hunt, carried on the Hunt with Charles West, now of the Fitzwilliam (Milton), as huntsman, and he has been succeeded by Sir Harold Nutting with Ted Molyneux to carry the horn.

The Meynell has been especially fortunate in having the services of Mr. Caldecott as Secretary for the last twenty years. "Mr. Caldecott is" (writes a member of the Hunt) "a good man to hounds and everybody's friend." Mr. Caldecott came from Essex, where he was known as being willing to take that hairy country as it came and to level sometimes formidable fences for his grateful followers. More often, however, he left them as the Squire's second horseman in Leech's picture did

the skirkers who had followed him through a line of gates by popping over a stiff fence. Mr. Caldecott rode good horses when he came to the Meynell and has the secret of success—beautiful hands on a horse. When at the Meynell Puppy Show in 1900 Mr. Caldecott returned thanks for the ladies he paid a deserved tribute to the ladies who ride with the Meynell. He remarked that they "take a great deal of catching." "But you have not caught me yet," said a voice. Mr. Caldecott (he is a bachelor) replied: "Yes; but I am not so quick as you."

The Meynell country has very little plough and is made up of small grass enclosures. Fences come quickly, but, as one who has ridden all his life in the country tells me, they are all jumpable. There is very little wire, although this has increased since the war. The hounds are out four days a week, the Monday and Thursday countries being most favoured by the members.

Now if we turn to the pictures I have the witness of the best possible authority that they are not only, as we can all see, full of life and movement—moments from the brightest side of life arrested by the pencil of the artist—but they are, as this artist's work generally is, true to the character of the country depicted. We are, as we look at them, in the Meynell country and riding once more with the



THE OPENING MEET AT RADBOURNE HALL.



THE MEYNELL COMING BACK TO DRAW AT RADBOURNE HALL.

Meynell Hounds over the grass. In the second sketch hounds met probably at Lea's Green and, possibly—for it is not quite as certain as it was—the covert being somewhat thin, found their fox at Parson's Gorse. This is in the Thursday country not far from Derby. It is a grass country with a number of small blackthorn and gorse coverts

scattered about it. There is generally a scent. The fences are big, and the thorns make horses inclined to jump big; you want a timber and water jumper here. I am told that years ago most of the fences were cut and laid; but now skilled labour of that kind is scarce, and they are as depicted here, ragged and hairy. Thus a stout horse, a bold and a clever one, is wanted



SUTTON BROOK.



THE WHISTLE! AWAY FROM RADBOURNE ROUGH.

Scent is good and foxes often travel far. Sutton Gorse, from the bottom end of which the Hunt is going away, has been the starting point of some of the best runs in the past; it is also in the Thursday country. From this covert a fox may and often does lead the Hunt over the very cream of the Meynell country. But the condition of seeing the run is—if the fox leaves, as here, at the bottom end of the covert—that the Sutton Brook must be crossed, and it is, as readers can see, big enough to hold a

man and horse. The country round Sutton Gorse was chosen last season, instead of Ednaston (also a favourite line), as the Point-to-Point course. In another picture we are introduced to a well known part of the country, still on the Derby side. The towers of Mickleover Asylum are seen on the skyline. These are a well known landmark in the Hunt, with coverts close at hand. Foxes have been marked to ground close to its walls. In this picture (No. 2) hounds have drawn Sardpit



NEAR DALLORY.



Lincoln Woods
The Magnolia - 18th 1900 -

NEAR MICKLEOVER.

Wood blank and are on their way to Radbourne Rough, a covert famous in song and story for the runs seen from it, although it is not easy for followers to get away from. This covert belongs to Mr. Chandos Pole, a former Master of the Meynell and Cattistock and a most popular man in the Hunt, especially among the farmers. Mr. Chandos Pole was thus described truly in the Meynell Hunt Alphabet: "P is for Pole; though welter his weight, he's a beautiful horseman and always goes straight." We have here (No. 4) a sketch of the Rough and one of the stout foxes for which it is noted going away; the whipper-in is blowing his whistle. I should like to draw my readers' attention to the touch of local colour showing the keen observation of the artist.

Radbourne Rough is a noted place for wild duck; they are shown rising from the covert as hounds hunt through, doubtless throwing their tongues on the line of the fox. It would be a congenial task to tell over again the story of the great Radbourne run, but it would take far too much space. Tom Leedham was the huntsman on that day, and a month after the run Lord Alexander Paget presented Tom with a silver horn, saying that "it was given in memory of the finest run ever known with the Meynell Hounds, in which your lady pack travelled thirty-two miles of country with a fox from Radbourne Rough in four hours and two minutes." To this may be added that the point was fourteen miles. Radbourne Rough takes us to Radbourne Hall, the seat of Mr. Chandos Pole. The fine old red brick house is a familiar meeting place of the Meynell Hounds and is connected with much good sport. The covert at Radbourne Rough already written of is a short distance from the house. The squires of Radbourne have always preserved it jealously for foxes, and it is said the late squire never went himself within two hundred yards of it, so careful was he to keep it quiet. Not only is the covert a certain find,

but the foxes are stout old customers, and not seldom in the spring is there a traveller from the hills that leads hounds back whence he came and gives a run to be remembered. A very interesting picture (No. 6) gives a good general view of the best of the Meynell. The hounds are streaming away from one of the coverts near the Mickleover Asylum. We see the field led by the Master, Sir Harold Nutting, on the right, riding at a very typical fence with (as the fall of the gentleman on the left shows us) a ditch on the take-off side. Radbourne Rough is not the only notable covert in this part of the country. There are several almost equally certain finds and each of them with a place in the history of the Hunt as the starting point of good runs. Some of the best known are the Brickyard, Pildock Wood and Bearwardcote. There have been many horsemen of more than local reputation among the members of the Meynell Hunt—Lord Berkeley Paget and Sir William Fitzherbert, who literally turned his horse's head from nothing; they tell a story of him that, having jumped a very big fence, someone said to him: "You need not have jumped; there was a gate not far off." "You don't expect me to remember all your gates, do you?" was the reply. The present Sir Richard Fitzherbert was a rider to hounds with a beautiful quiet style of his own and such perfect hands that he always seemed to be on good terms with his horse. In very early days there was Captain Tempest, who did not always give the hounds room enough—"all went well," said the older Meynell, "until White-headed Bob (Captain Tempest) sat down to ride the leading hound." No chronicler of the Meynell doings can omit Miss Georgiana Meynell, who rode through the great Radbourne run; nor, perhaps, can we better conclude than by quoting the advice given her on that occasion by old Tom Leedham, which is equally applicable to all of us when hounds are settled to run hard: "Now, then, Missy, ye mun lick and lay on." X.

A MILLIONAIRE AND HIS FRIENDS

ANDREW CARNEGIE was the very essence and embodiment of Victorian ideals. He was a good boy, always fond of his mother and kind to her; industrious, steady, full of ambition. In whatever position he was placed during the early stages of his career he discharged his duty in a way to bring down blessings on his head from all the just and austere of the world. How he learned the art of charming gold out of steel and became the very Midas of his age is matter well calculated to adorn pages written for the good boy. But we confess that our interest lies more in those chapters towards the end of "The Autobiography of Andrew Carnegie" (Constable) wherein he describes the really splendid friends he was able to make by his upright character and liberal disposition, as well as by his devotion to work. We are not disparaging our American friends in saying that we like better those who belong to this country. In America Carnegie was fighting all the time, doing business with business men and grappling with the other giants of commerce. It is no wonder that the friends he formed during that period have rather hard and stern faces. Many of them made great fortunes and all were in the very thick of the industrial struggle. It has been said that no man makes money without a record being written on his face, and that is certainly true of the magnates of commerce with whom Carnegie came in contact during the more active portion of his career.

When he came to England to live permanently it was different. He was a made man and independent of further exertion, so he got his coach and four and drove through the British islands in great state and glory. He took with him men of high distinction in their day, such as William Black, the fashionable novelist who wrote the "Strange Adventures of a Phaeton." That highly prized honour of all successful natives called back to their birthplace, the freedom of the town of Dunfermline, was conferred upon him. There were only two signatures between his and one he admired exceedingly, Sir Walter Scott's. He made a speech, and later, in 1881, was required to make another when his mother laid the foundation stone of the first free library he ever bestowed on the public. After his marriage he built Skibo Castle and brought to it many distinguished friends. Among his English acquaintances one placed first is Mr. Matthew Arnold, whom he describes, without qualification, as the most charming man—praise confirmed by that excellent judge of manners, John Morley. Mr. Gladstone he had known before; had, in fact, visited him at Hawarden. To his delight he found in Mr. Gladstone's library "Dunfermline Worthies," a book by a friend of his father, and "An American Four-in-Hand in Britain," besides having the pleasure of hearing Mr. W. E. Gladstone declaim his tribute to Dunfermline. But it was no wonder that the Grand Old Man liked it, because the style of the oratory extremely resembles his own: "What Benares is

to the Hindoo, Mecca to the Mohammedan, Jerusalem to the Christian, all that Dunfermline is to me." It is to be hoped that Mr. Gladstone had acquired this book before he thought of meeting the author, else the tribute he paid to it might be deemed to have been a prepared one. Carnegie had heard the incomparable voice before and was never to forget it. His final verdict upon Gladstone was to the effect that he was interested in more subjects than perhaps any other man in Britain, and that he maintained this interest to the very end.

With Lord Morley, as John Morley, he seems to have had a great deal of intercourse, describing him as "pessimistic, looking out soberly, even darkly, upon the real dangers ahead, and sometimes imagining vain things." Lord Morley even crossed the Atlantic on a visit to Carnegie what time Roosevelt was at the White House. "Well, I have seen two wonders in America," was his epigram, "Roosevelt and Niagara." As Mr. Carnegie describes them, "a great pair of roaring and tumbling, dashing and splashing wonders."

Chamberlain and Morley were greatly attached and, of course, the millionaire met the great man of Birmingham often. There is a great deal also about Herbert Spencer, who was a fellow traveller with Andrew Carnegie from Liverpool to New York in 1882. He found the philosopher fond of good stories and a good laugh. He told his story about a disappointed emigrant to Texas, who said to him

"Stranger, all that I have to say about Texas is that if I owned Texas and h—l, I would sell Texas."

Herbert Spencer, of course, found in the American an outlet for all his republicanism. The two were, indeed, very tolerant one to the other. Carnegie says that Herbert Spencer never went so far as Tennyson did upon an occasion when some of the old ideas were under discussion. James Knowles, the editor of the *Nineteenth Century*, told him that he was very much disappointed with the son's "Life" of the poet as giving no true picture of his father in his revolt against stern theology. Carnegie describes Spencer himself as almost immaculately pure and good. "He never was guilty of an immoral act or did an injustice to any human being."

BOOKS WORTH READING.

- Twenty-four Portraits*, by William Rothenstein, with critical appreciation by various hands. (Allen and Unwin, 21s.)
The XVIII Century in London. An Account of its Social Life and Arts, by E. Beresford Chancellor. (Batsford, 35s.)
Dostoevsky and His Creation, a Psycho-Critical Study, by Janko Lavrin. (Collins, 7s. 6d.)
The Earthen Vessel, a Volume Dealing With Spirit Communication in the Form of Book Tests, by Pamela Glenconner. (John Lane, 6s.)
Fighting Sports, by Captain L. Fitz-Barnard. (Odhams, 21s.)
The Great Accident, by Ben Ames Williams. (Mills and Boon, 8s. 6d.)
In the Country Places, by Charles Murray. (Constable, 3s. 6d.)

CORRESPONDENCE

LADY VICTORIA HERBERT'S SCHEME
FOR EX-PRISONERS OF WAR.
EMPLOYMENT FOR EX-SOLDIERS.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—May I venture to ask your kind consideration of a letter I received recently from Tasmania? The ex-soldier who wrote it was a prisoner of war in Germany and therefore came under our scheme for despatching food parcels to relieve the prisoners' necessities. At the cessation of hostilities our Fund (Chairman, Lord Sanderson; Treasurer, Mr. Edward Hudson) started immediately working to find situations for the men, and up to the present date—when, alas, our funds are becoming exhausted—we have helped these ex-soldiers with clothing, grants of money for apprenticeships, food, and paid for their seeing specialists when they were suffering from wounds and illnesses. The writer of the enclosed letter had suffered an entire diminution of his fortune during the war; after considering various possibilities of earning an income, he accepted the Government Scheme of Emigration (Oversea Settlement Office, Victoria Street, S.W.1), married, and left England last spring. He was totally without funds, except for a small new outfit of clothes and a £5 note, but well equipped with determination to make a good position for his wife and himself. For the rest, the letter speaks for itself; my objects in writing to you are (1) to give it publicity, (2) to venture to suggest to you whether, by opening a subscription in your columns to obtain clothing and money to supplement the free passage offered to the men by the Government, it would not be an incentive to other ex-soldiers to follow the example of this successful emigrant.—VICTORIA HERBERT.

Tasmania, October 30th, 1920.

"DEAR LADY HERBERT,

It was a real pleasure to my wife and myself to hear from you yesterday, any word from the Homeland is welcome, but none more than yours. I am sure that at present, with the terrible conditions (according to our papers here), ruling in England—coal strikes and labour wars—that your hands must be full in your efforts to secure a favourable deal for the ex-prisoners of war. If it is not presumption, and knowing how you have helped me, I in my turn would like to help somebody else, if only by advice, so, as I say, if it is not presumption, may I ask one thing. Whenever a man under thirty-five, with any reasonable stability of character (*i.e.*, not a heavy drinker or a wishy-washy sort), with any knowledge at all of using his hands, say with a hammer, or a saw, comes to you, tell him this. So long as he is prepared to live in the country and not hang about the towns, so long as he is prepared to strike out and follow the job into the bush, there is room here this year for *all* the out-of-work men in England. In 'Tassy' we are just well commenced on an era of railway construction, and this will be 'carrying on' for the next twenty years, and is in real need of, say, three hundred men; the pay is 12s. 6d. a day, and the single men in camps—because they all live in bivouacs—are living well on £1 a week. Carpenters, miners, bricklayers, blacksmiths, handy men, willing men, farm hands, any good men at all, send them on this land, as it is thirsty for men. They are sure of one thing, a fair square deal; they are more sure of another thing, a real welcome.

I have half an acre of land, attached to the house here, so we've bedded a quarter of it into a flower garden, quarter into a kitchen garden for herbs and peas. I am growing also potatoes, melons, cucumbers—tell those who look for work in England that. I am so sorry that this letter, which set out to be a line of thanks and a brief offer to help anybody who felt like coming out here, should have been so long, but I'm enthusiastic over this other little island set in a silver sea."

SIR PHILIP SASSOON'S HOUSING
SCHEME.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—It is gratifying to us that so much interest has been aroused by the publication of your article on the housing scheme which we are carrying out for Sir Philip Sassoon at Folkestone. In reply to Mr. Guy Dawber's letter we would say: (1) The sand was, in fact, obtained on the site, but it is not sea sand. The site on which the cottages are built is about 800ft. distant from high-water mark, and is 82ft. above the Ordnance datum line.

(2) The cost of the bricks, delivered at the site, was 58s. 6d. per thousand. This low cost was due to the source of supply being close at hand. A certain number of old bricks also were utilised, the average cost of old and new material being as above stated. (3 and 4) Generally, as regards material, costs were undoubtedly kept down by the method adopted by the Society in dealing with its contractor. The Society supplied the contractor with a market, and gave him a definite figure at which the different materials could be obtained at the source indicated by the Society—if not obtainable locally. None of the materials were supplied free by Sir Philip Sassoon. (5) We cannot agree that the lobbies are extravagant, as they serve a variety of purposes; in fact, we always endeavour to include them in cottage schemes. (6) The omission of the parlour undoubtedly effects a considerable saving and, as was explained in the account given in your December 25th issue, in the case of the first eight flats included in the scheme only two bedrooms are provided for each dwelling. (7) Another economy was the arrangement of the bathroom on the main floor in every case, thus simplifying the hot-water work, for, though we agree entirely with Mr. Dawber that the bathroom were much more desirable upstairs, its arrangement in such a position inevitably enlarges not only the upper storey, but also the ground floor. We have unfortunately found, in common with other people, that many of the points of this nature once regarded as essential have had to be sacrificed. (8) If it were possible for you to reproduce the plans, etc., of the complete scheme, it would be seen that no space has been lost as the result of footings, etc., below the ground levels. Every inch of structure has been utilised to the full—in several cases on the express instructions of Sir Philip Sassoon, who has himself taken the closest interest in the work. Take, for example, the two long blocks flanking the *cul-de-sac*. That on the right, being on the higher ground, consists of four two-storey cottages, with the upper floor mainly in the roof. The block on the left facing it, being on the lower ground, has its roof at the same level as the first, but consists of five flats and a cottage distributed over three storeys, the lowest one of which is approached from the back only. By such means is obtained the maximum of accommodation in relation to cubic extent and material used. In conclusion, the cheap cost of construction is largely due, as also stated in your article, to very careful buying. We would like to state that we have been fortunate in securing the co-operation of a splendid contractor in Mr. Marx. We hope that these additional details may help to clear up some of the points raised by Mr. Dawber. It need hardly be said that we welcome, very heartily, expert and friendly criticism of this character, and if there is anything more that is not yet clear

to Mr. Dawber, or to any of your readers, we shall be only too glad to furnish further information. Since the above was written we have seen the letters of Captain R. L. Reiss and Mr. O. P. Milne in your issue for January 1st. Mr. Milne raises some points that are not specifically dealt with above. In answer to his queries: (1) The contract was a lump sum contract with the usual "up and down" clause. (2) There were no specially favourable local conditions other than those already mentioned, and surplus Government stock was not obtained. In addition, the figure of £750 is correct. The original tender, in October, 1919, including roads, paths, fences and drains, was for £648 per house. It will be seen that between the figures quoted there is a 16 per cent. increase to cover the inevitably greater cost of building, but at the same time savings have been effected in carrying out the work.—EWART G. CULPIN AND R. S. BOWERS.

LONDON SMOKE.

TO THE EDITOR.

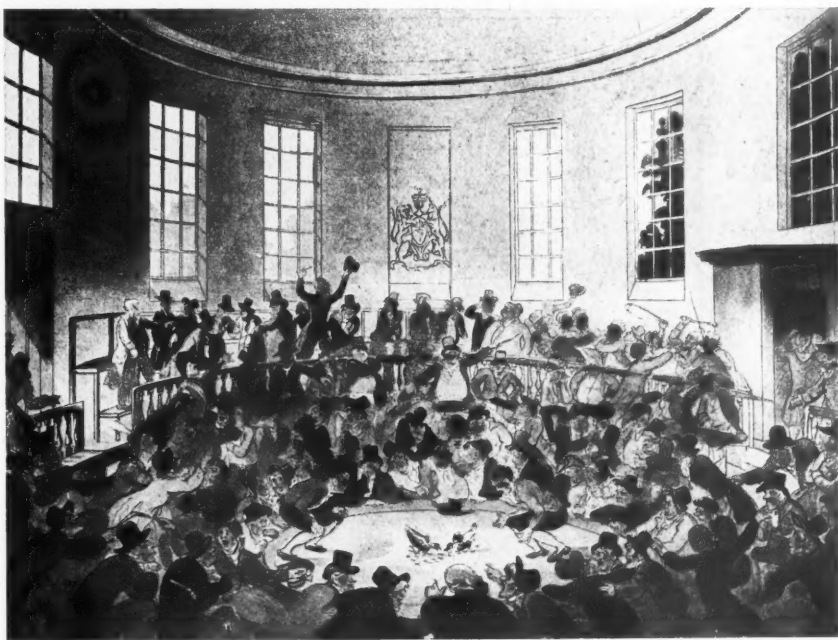
SIR,—It was a pleasure to me to see you re-attacking the smoke disease. From one's earliest days one can remember the fruitless complaints against this most appalling nuisance, and as reformers have been regarded more or less as cranks, it has appeared hopeless to achieve a remedy. Now, if a steady continuing pressure be exerted, something may be done. I would suggest, Sir, that the only way to improvement is for the Government to pass a compulsory Carbonisation of Coal Bill, making it illegal to burn, in London at least, any raw bituminous coal that has not been retorted for its by-products. This would solve the smoke problem and the oil problem as well and provide *productive* work for many unemployed.—H. W. STRAFFORD.

THE PLEASURE OF PRINCES.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Since receiving your letter of December 14th I have heard from Miss Constance Holme, and I have been in communication with Mr. H. W. Fincham, the Assistant-Librarian at St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell (Order of St. John of Jerusalem) with whom I have long been associated in work of anti-quarian nature. He writes yesterday: "I think I am on the track of the man who knows all about the cockpit." This refers to the Theobalds Road Cockpit. Would you think it worth your while to communicate with Mr. Fincham at St. John's Gate Library and, before this cockpit is destroyed, have it photographed and the photograph reproduced in COUNTRY LIFE? This would complete Miss Holme's article on the subject.—A. C. YATE (Lieut.-Col.)

[The drawing of the Royal Cockpit which we reproduce will interest our correspondent and other readers.—Ed.]



THE OLD ROYAL COCKPIT, FROM A PRINT BY ROWLANDSON.

NEW COMERS AT THE ZOO.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I enclose a photograph of a barking frog or ornamented ceratophrys (*Ceratophrys ornata*), eight of which have just arrived at the Zoo. These curious creatures are found in Southern Brazil and the Argentine, and are stated to be the most beautiful of all the ceratophrys. Growing to a length of about 6ins. or 7ins., these frogs, known to the natives as "escuerzos," spend the greater part of their existence buried beneath the ground, with only the top of their backs, or merely their eyes, showing above the surface. In this position they lie in wait for their prey, which consists of small mammals, birds, worms and other frogs, while in captivity they will readily devour mice. Their skin is rough and covered with tubercles, that upon the back being bright green in colour, relieved with large reddish-brown or olive blotches, edged with golden



ONE OF THE BARKING FROGS.

yellow. The jaws are also bright yellow in colour. The upper eyelids are triangular in shape and terminate in upstanding and pointed prominences. In some species this feature is so pronounced that the growths look like miniature horns. When burrowing in the ground the creatures employ their hind feet for the purpose of dislodging the soil, the under surface of those members being furnished with horny-covered and sharp-edged bony tubercles. Of a bold and even ferocious disposition, the ceratophrys hangs on to its prey with such tenacity that it is almost impossible to make it leave go. When in a state of excitement it utters loud barking sounds and also makes a noise suggesting the wailing of a baby, its body being inflated to an enormous size during the performance.—B.

A GOD OF THE SOIL.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Most of the gods of China dwell comfortably in temples or covered shrines, but out in the fields and country, roofless, so that they are open to the heavens, stand shrines or altars which contain no image. One may be seen outside practically every village. These

are shrines to the God of the Soil and of Harvest, and the reason why they are roofless is this. In the remote past, when there were no beasts of burden upon the earth, men had to toil most grievously, so that the God of the Soil felt great pity in his heart, and approached the Heavenly Cow with a request that she would go down and help mankind. She demurred, being full of uneasiness at the idea. "I am afraid," she said, "that men will treat me harshly." The God of the Soil, however, urged her with all the powers of his eloquence, arguing away her fears. "Should that impossible thing be, I would have no roof to my house for ever after." This satisfied her and she went down. But in a short time she came to him weeping. Her worst fears had been realised. "Not only do they beat me most cruelly when alive and give me no rest; but even when dead they take my skin to make drums, which they beat without ceasing." The god sadly acknowledged that she was right, and to this day his altars stand roofless in the fields, although they are generally placed under the shade of a large tree, which is often regarded as sacred. Authorities agree with the legend as regards the fact that the shrines were originally erected to the earth for her virtues in producing food for men and beasts. They are therefore, without doubt, very old, older than covered temples, older than most of the gods themselves, finding their origin in the dim past of nature-worship.—F. WESTON.

AN UNPUBLISHED PORTRAIT OF NAPOLEON.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I am much interested in the portrait of Napoleon, attributed to David, which you reproduce in the Christmas Number of COUNTRY LIFE on page 754. I have at hand an interesting book of Napoleonic portraits, entitled "Napoleon, illustrated with Prints from Contemporary and other Portraits," by J. T. Herbert Baily, published by the *Connoisseur Magazine*. On referring to the list of illustrations, I find that there are four associated with David, two of which, described as by Vallot and Laugier, after David, and by Robert Cooper, after David, bear a strong resemblance to the portrait to which your correspondent refers. There is, however, a portrait of Napoleon, on page 20, from a miniature which was in the possession of the late Mr. Berney Ficklin, F.S.A., of Tasburgh Hall, near Norwich, which is almost identical with the portrait of Napoleon attributed to David, which you reproduce. By the kind permission of Mr. Berney Ficklin, I reproduced this portrait as the frontispiece of my book, entitled "The Letters of Captain Engelbert Lutyens," of which I am bringing out now a sequel, entitled "A Gift of Napoleon." I send you a copy of that picture, which you may like to have for comparison.—LEES KNOWLES.

[We have submitted Sir Lees Knowles' letter to our former correspondent, whose comment we print below: "The portrait of Napoleon reproduced in a book by Sir

Lees Knowles, entitled 'The Letters of Captain Engelbert Lutyens,' bears a strong resemblance to the portrait reproduced in the Christmas Number of COUNTRY LIFE, but the



FROM A MINIATURE OF NAPOLEON, POSSIBLY AFTER DAVID.

uniform and decorations are different and it is slightly more full face. It must have been painted about the same time, not long before the Waterloo Campaign. The interest of the portrait believed to be by David lies partly in its history. It was taken as loot after Waterloo on the entry of our Army into Paris. At the moment of its annexation it was lying in the Tuileries, wrapped up and addressed to the Italian Embassy, and it has remained in the possession of the captor's family since then, as an interesting memento of stirring days. The facts, which can be authenticated, lend some weight to the claim that it is an original portrait, and the technique of the painting points to the brush of David. Its destination is another strong argument in its favour. More light may be thrown on the subject in your Correspondence columns. The approach of the centenary of the death of Napoleon lends something to the interest of the discussion at this moment.—Ed.]

LONGEVITY OF BIRDS.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—The longevity of birds cannot often be ascertained, and therefore instances of it are worthy of record. A white cock fantail pigeon has been in my possession twenty-three years and was hatched out one year before. He died on the 26th inst., aged twenty-four years, presumably of old age, as he fed well up to the last.—JOHN ROSE.

CLEARING WEED FROM A LAKE.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—“Surrey” asks for advice as to some cheap means of getting rid of weed from a lake of thirty-five acres. The following facts may be of help and interest to him. Some years back the ribbon weed in the upper reaches of the salt water river Deben, in Suffolk, became such a nuisance in the summer months, that motor boats could not get along at half tide, through the screws balling up. The matter was brought up before the local authority, but no remedy appeared possible. Since that time some swans which were given to the local council have increased a hundredfold, the weed has almost disappeared through their constant attentions, and the local fishermen and wild fowl shooters execrate the birds. The former state that the shelter and spawning grounds of the fish are destroyed and the shooters complain that the swans eat the food of the wild fowl and drive them away! Certain it is that the swans have so pulled up the weeds by the roots that the cant edge of the channel is slipping down through lack of root support and the wash of the tide on the unprotected edge. The council reduced the number of these birds by seventy a year or two back, but at the present time some hundred or more are living unaided by artificial food. Possibly “Surrey” could negotiate a purchase of a score or so, and thus earn the gratitude of the local sportsmen and fishers at Woodbridge, Suffolk. This year three pairs reared twenty-five cygnets.—OTTER.



A TEMPLE OF THE GOD OF THE SOIL, ROOFLESS FOR THE SAKE OF HIS OATH TO THE HEAVENLY COW.

THE ESTATE MARKET

SOME COMING SALES

UP to the present there has been but little new business to record this year, and very few definite dates have been notified for auctions. There is a great quantity of real estate awaiting realisation, but the prevalent inclination is to delay decision as to bringing it under the hammer until the season has fairly opened. The comparative briskness of the market a year ago is not a precedent that can be expected to be followed this year, for the early activity of 1920 was the natural sequel to the activity of the whole of 1919, whereas last year the latter months were not marked by a very buoyant tendency. Nobody will mind if the year opens quietly so long as prospective purchasers take advantage of the opportunities which will, in due course, be presented to them. Many magnificent estates are to be let, or in the market, either to be sold privately or, failing that, to come into the auction room later in the year.

EASTWELL PARK, KENT.

ALIKE in area and personal interest, one of the finest properties for private negotiation is Eastwell Park (illustrated in COUNTRY LIFE, Vol. I, page 378). Lord Gerard's instructions to Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley to dispose of the property have already been announced in these columns, and the intended sale should complete a process that was begun a couple of years ago with the disposal of 2,000 acres of the outlying portions. Eastwell lies near the old pilgrimage road between Charing and Canterbury, not a great distance from another notable estate, recently much to the fore, Godmersham Park. The principal entrance to the seat is Eastwell Towers, a fine example of worked flints. The mansion, of Kentish ragstone, was rebuilt about 100 years ago, under the direction of Bonomi, and greatly improved in 1894 by Lord Gerard, who bought it in that year, and at once also acquired all the intermediate land requisite to give the estate that much coveted character of being in a ring fence. And what a fence it is, that of the park being some thirteen miles of brick wall and deer fencing. The grounds are laid out on a scale commensurate with the territorial importance of the property; for example, the rose garden alone extends to four acres. The deer park has an area of a couple of thousand acres, and the entirety is fully 4,000 acres, a splendid sporting property.

Eastwell is occupied by Lady Northcote, whose tenancy expires next March. The Duke of Abercorn lived there at one time, and the Duke of Edinburgh (afterwards Duke of Saxe Coburg and Gotha) made it his home. He took to Eastwell his bride, the Grand Duchess Marie Alexandrovna of Russia, and there the Queen of Roumania was born. King Edward was a frequent visitor.

Mr. H. C. B. Underdown's Buckenham Tofts estate, near Brandon, of 4,100 acres, in the famous heath district of Norfolk, and noted for its shooting and fishing, is to be offered for sale by auction by Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley. The Georgian mansion stands in a well timbered park, and the estate is bounded and intersected by the River Wissey. The firm, through their Ashford office, have sold The Gibbet, Tenterden, an old-fashioned house with 120 acres; The Elms, New Romney, a residential property of 30½ acres, which has been acquired by the Kent Education Committee; Horsalls, Harrietsham, a residence with 11 acres; Forehead Farm, Aldington; and a number of local residences and small holdings. The firm has also sold The Malt House, Gloucestershire recently offered by them at auction.

"ST. JAMES'S ESTATE ROOMS."

FROM the first announcement of an auction to be held in their new premises in St. James's Square it may be inferred that Messrs. Hampton and Sons intend to call their freehold, No. 20, St. James's Square, "The St. James's Estate Rooms." The house is a notable example of the best work of the Adam Brothers, and its use as a mart for real estate is another milestone in the history of the square, which was formerly pre-eminent residentially and fashionably. It is changing rapidly, and now left as residential owners are only the Duke of Norfolk, the Earl of Strafford, Viscount Astor,

Lord Kinnaid, the Hon. Rupert Guinness and Colonel Archer-Shee, the rest of the Square being given up to clubs, banks and offices of important firms and the Government. No. 20, where Messrs. Hampton are making their offices, is one of the most interesting houses in the Square. Alterations have had to be carried out, but the house will be left substantially the same as on the day it was completed by the Brothers Adam for the Watkin Wynne family, for whom it was built. The perfect Adam work in doors, walls and fireplaces and the Angelica Kauffmann ceilings will be carefully preserved. The first sale, according to present arrangements, likely to be conducted there is that of Riversdale, Bourne End, by order of M. Louis Blériot, a house upon which an immense amount of money has been expended.

The lease of the old-fashioned town house overlooking St. James's Park, 24, Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster, has been sold by Messrs. Trollope.

SALE OF 53,300 ACRES.

OVER 53,300 acres, producing rents of £44,500, were sold in 1920, by Messrs. Castiglione and Scott, for £1,037,160. The principal estates dealt with were the Brome and Oakley in Suffolk, extending to 8,000 acres, including the imposing mansion of Oakley Park and the fine old Elizabethan residence, Brome Hall; the Lauderdale estates, Berwickshire, extending to 12,255 acres; Fowberry, Northumberland, extending to over 2,000 acres; Shobdon Court, Hereford, 6,311 acres; Birkwood estate, Lanarkshire, 1,114 acres; Lochlibo estate, Renfrewshire, 2,356 acres; Glassaugh and Auchinderran, Banffshire, 2,411 acres; and Barnbarroch, Wigtownshire, 5,299 acres. The following is an analysis of the average prices, dealing only with large estates: The average price of farms in Northumberland was thirty years' purchase on gross rents, and as high as thirty-six years' purchase on the Fowberry estate; Suffolk made an average of over twenty years' purchase, with some farms up to twenty-eight years' purchase; Berwickshire prices, after deducting burdens, averaged twenty-four years' purchase, while in some cases the prices went up to twenty-nine years' purchase; prices in Herefordshire averaged over thirty years' purchase, and up to thirty-eight years for the best land; Lanarkshire prices averaged twenty-five years' purchase; Renfrewshire prices averaged over twenty years' purchase for hill farms.

FEWER SPECULATIVE PURCHASES.

"ALTHOUGH in the disposal of real estate 1920 has been a satisfactory year, our total sales are," Messrs. Edwards, Son and Bigwood (Birmingham) say, "about 25 per cent. under the record for 1919. A variety of causes account for this, among them being the elimination of the speculator purchasing for a re-sale at a profit to tenants, the uncertainty of the effect of legislation now before Parliament, particularly during the last few months, the high rate of interest required by mortgagees and bankers, and the unwillingness of the latter to lock up capital permanently. During the year in some districts members of the Farmers' Union have adopted an aggressive policy, asserting their right to purchase their farms exactly as held, and endeavouring to deter purchasers from bidding against them. A recent decision (noted in COUNTRY LIFE) under which a would-be purchaser (who was ejected, by friends of a tenant, from a saleroom) and the owner of the estate both recovered damages, should serve to remind some that there is still in this country a free market for land by auction. Among our sales during the year have been the Corbett estate, Droitwich, about £90,000; Littleton estate, of Captain Spencer Churchill, Evesham, about £30,000; Sir Charles Wigg's Walton Hall estate, Eccleshall, Staffs, about £25,000; Sir Wathen Waller's Lillingston estate, Leamington, £35,000; Lord Leigh's Staffordshire estate, Hamstall Ridware, entirely sold for upwards of £50,000; and the same nobleman's outlying Warwickshire estates, which have been entirely cleared at about £110,000. Our experience shows that there is still a market for good farms beyond the tenants in occupation."

WELSH AND BORDER SALES.

THE disposal of agricultural property in North Wales and the Border Counties during the past year has kept pace with the previous year, and the 1919 prices have as a whole been well maintained, being, in fact, in many instances exceeded. Messrs. Frank Lloyd and Sons say: "In the dispersal of extensive estates the general custom has been to give priority to the sitting tenants, and, so far as can be judged, the compensation clauses in the Agricultural Bill have had no appreciable effect either upon the tenant purchasers or others. Privately and publicly we have offered many thousands of acres and out of the whole of these we have only some half-dozen holdings unsold. Many ancient estates have changed hands during the year, perhaps one of the oldest being the Whitchurch (Salop) portion of the Bridgewater estate, belonging to Earl Brownlow. The Earl of Bradford has been a seller during the year, disposing of some of his Shropshire property near Knockin. Lord Mostyn sold extensive estates in the neighbourhood of Holywell, and Lord Kenyon disposed of the whole of his Montgomeryshire estate and part of his Flintshire properties. Sir Wyndham Hamner sold a large section of his Flintshire estate, including some fifty holdings. An important sale of the year was that of Lord Newborough, who sold the whole of his Denbighshire estates with the exception of Melai, which was withheld. Not a few historical properties have changed hands. Some examples of these are Croes Newydd, a fine old manor house near Wrexham, which dates back to before 1600; Penylan Hall, Meifod, where Cobham's Garden is famous as being the spot where Lord Cobham (upon whom Shakespeare founded Falstaff) was arrested and put to death as a Lollard in 1417; and Dinbren Hall, under the shadow of Castell Dinas Bran, near Llangollen."

The Kemeys Tynte realisations are still continuing, through Messrs. Lofts and Warner and Messrs. Stephenson and Alexander; and the sales by Lord Kensington, through Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley, and many other South Wales transactions, represent the transfer of an immense acreage, mostly at excellent prices.

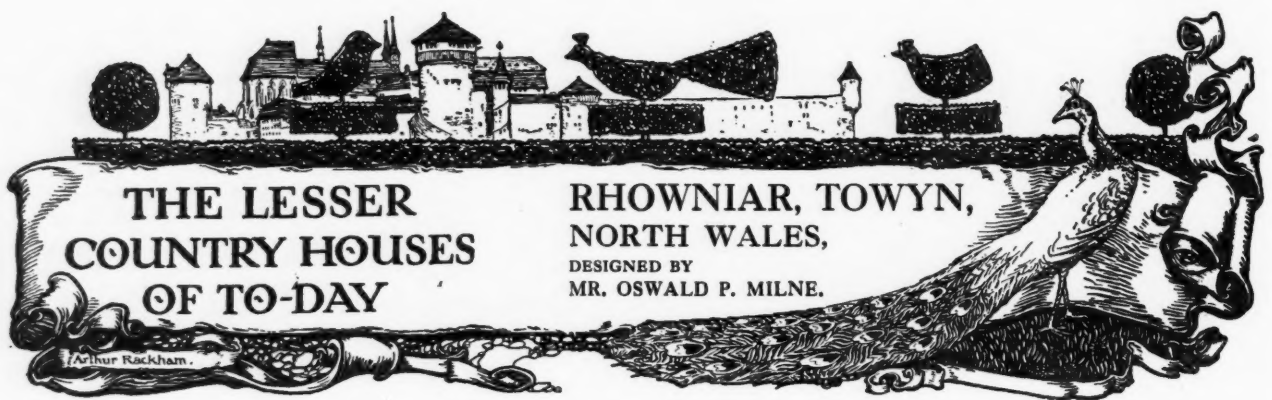
PRICES IN 1918 AND NOW.

IN Shropshire and neighbouring counties a large number of estates came into the market in 1920, and there was a steady demand for farms between 100 acres and 300 acres. Messrs. Hall, Wateridge and Owen state that hill farms and those in remote districts are not selling quite so freely. Tenants are finding increasing difficulty in obtaining money on loan at less than 6½ per cent., with which to buy their holdings, and mortgagees require a large margin of security. Small holdings, 10 acres to 50 acres, are in great demand, and realised between £50 and £120 per acre. During the season the firm sold estates in Shropshire and neighbouring counties, aggregating over 14,000 acres and prices were high for good farms, £45 to £50 an acre being paid in some cases.

There has been considerable competition for residential estates in Lancashire and Cheshire. "Properties of this class which were unsaleable in 1914 have," Messrs. Boulton, Son and Maples state, "readily sold at figures 20 per cent. to 50 per cent. in excess of the 1914 prices. For farms, the prices obtained equalled the 1919 year's figures, varying in Lancashire and Cheshire from £25 per acre, up to £100, according to the richness of soil, situation as regards markets and the condition of the buildings. The chief purchasers of farms were the sitting tenants, who have now realised that they can no longer expect to rent farms at figures showing the owners only 2 per cent. or 3 per cent. upon the capital value."

Messrs. Dibblin and Smith have, for the second time in six months, sold Jesmond Hill, Pangbourne, the first sale being to Colonel Woodall and the second purchaser being Major Geoffrey Lubbock. They have also sold privately the Manor House at Beaminster, a Georgian manor house, with fine water gardens; that also being the second time the property has been disposed of within the year.

ARBITER.



A HOUSE by the sea offers exceptional opportunities for interesting treatment, but equally it involves special care in its design and construction. Generally its site is one that is prominently in view from many points, and the architect needs, therefore, to see that his house does not become too insistent on the eye; while, as regards its construction, the exposure to driving winds and rains requires good walling, a thoroughly tight roof, and well fitting doors and windows. All these matters were clearly in Mr. Oswald P. Milne's mind when he designed the house which is now illustrated. It is built upon the hills above the Aberdovey Golf Links, and not only has a glorious view seawards, but also on the opposite side commands a beautiful prospect of the Welsh mountains. It was originally the intention to build the house with stone taken out of the site, but the geological formation in North Wales varies tremendously; and, though there is quite good stone obtainable a few miles from Towyn, on this particular site the material came out like slate. This being unsuitable for the purpose, it was decided to build the house of brick, which has been covered with lime plaster finished with a wooden float.

In determining the precise spot on which to build, considerable difficulty was experienced by reason of the fact that the surface is extremely unequal and very rocky, but at length a little plateau was found that suited all requirements.

The house is sheltered from the north-east, but is exposed to very severe gales on the seaward side. The treatment adopted, however, has successfully withstood these. There is a good deal of roof expanse covered with Precelly green slates, and this use of local material has the merit of harmonising with the surroundings, which is the especial virtue of local materials. The guttering and downpipes are of elm with lead heads.

Rhowniar is essentially a house for the summer, and was planned for this express occupation. All the principal rooms on the ground floor have a south outlook, and the arrangement adopted on the first floor gives the bedrooms a similar aspect, the plan being one of north-corridor type.



Copyright.

ON THE TERRACE.

"C.L."

The main entrance to the house is well protected by a porch that projects as a small wing. This leads into a long hall, off



Copyright.

GENERAL VIEW FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

which the drawing-room and dining-room are entered, these two rooms having between them an inner hall with a pair of doors opening into the dining-room. The inner hall is comfortably furnished and it serves the purposes of a sitting-room. Its relation to the dining-room is well shown by the photograph which is reproduced on this page.

Next to the dining-room is a verandah, and opening out of this is a big garden room, its range of windows being collapsible, so that when desired the whole space can be thrown open. This is a very pleasant feature of the house, while the space between the gabled projections on the south side forms a pocket where one can sit and enjoy the full warmth of the sun on days when the wind is blowing from some northerly or easterly quarter. Here on the wall is set a leaden sundial—just a touch of craftsmanship that adds a piquant interest.

The terrace in front of the house on this side is laid out in a restful manner, its pathway being flagged with squared stones. From this terrace two flights of steps lead down to a grass walk, and from this one descends again to a very delightful sunk garden. At a still lower level are a dell water garden and rock garden, and on the east side of the house is a tennis lawn.

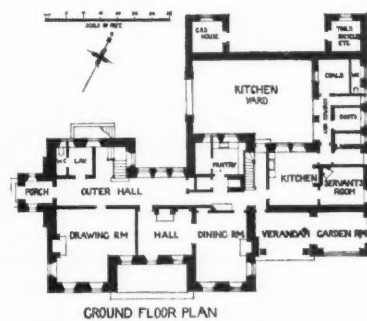
The interior is quite simply treated. The outer hall and inner hall are panelled in oak, and the drawing-room has panelling painted white. Elsewhere throughout the house the walls are finished with plaster and distemper. The rooms are furnished for convenience and comfort and the service arrangements are such that the work of the house can be carried out with as little trouble as possible. And it is to be noted that a maids' sitting-room is provided, this being one of the things denoting an altered standpoint from that which used always to be adopted, whereby the kitchen was required to serve the dual purposes of workshop and sitting-room. The newer way is the better



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one. It gives an arrangement adapted for greater efficiency in work and is a thousand times more satisfactory in respect of comfort in the leisure hours.

R. R. P.

APPROACH OF THE FLAT RACING SEASON OF 1921

NOTES ON IMPORTANT ENTRIES.

THE flat-racing season of 1921 is due to open unusually early this year—March 14th—and its approach is made to appear even nearer by the recent publication of entries for the outstanding spring handicaps, Gold Cup at Ascot, Coronation Cup at Epsom and many other events for two year olds and maiden three year olds. Most of them show considerable increases as regards numbers entered. A reason may be that, in a number of instances, the races are on the new sweepstakes principle, and as owners can get in and out for very little—that is, the original cost of subscription is small and the forfeit at the acceptance stage also small—they have not hesitated to take even the most forlorn chances. Take the case of the Lincolnshire Handicap. It is now a sweepstake of £20 each or only £5 for those who are content to "see" the weights and then withdraw immediately afterwards. The weights are due to be published on the 27th inst., and any that remain in after February 1st will be liable for the full £20 whether they run or not. I shall expect to see a big withdrawal even though, with £1,000 added by the Racecourse Executive, the race will be of far more value than ever it has been in the past.

In glancing down the big entry of seventy-seven one is struck with the amount of rubbish in it. Really the mentality of some owners and trainers is altogether past understanding. They enter selling platers out of their class, thereby throwing away money, and then complain of the costliness of racing! The owner and trainer who go far towards making racing pay out of stakes, mixed with judicious betting, are they who can appraise their horses at their true worth and "place" them in races according to their merits. Here, in this Lincolnshire Handicap entry, we have animals entered that could not win with no weight at all on their backs or if allowed a furlong start. Unfortunately some are allowed to encumber the field, with the result that the chances of legitimate candidates are endangered in scrimmages at the start and through the race.

It is quite customary now for horses to be betted on even before entries are made. Their admirers believe they will not fail to be entered and they are willing to accept the risk. The temptation, of course, is the long odds. They were singularly shrewd this time, for the horses they fixed upon—Poltava, Orpi, Wavy Stripe, Earna and Monarch—were all found in the

entry when it was made known the other day. All these have been backed to win quite a lot of money and have been taken in doubles for the Grand National, chiefly with Always, who before even the entries are known, is at the very short price of 7 to 1. It seems absurd, but it is so, and the bookmakers will tell you that when only one horse is enquired for 7 to 1 is really a long price to keep on laying. Unquestionably Always is going to be a most tempting proposition for the big race, no matter what weight he may be given. He won the other day at Manchester when apparently not half fit.

To return, however, to the Lincolnshire Handicap. Poltava is Mr. Raphael's grey horse that finished well up in the Derby. Most of the season he was engaged in sprint handicaps, but it is claimed for him that he will stay this Lincoln mile, and overtures have already been made to secure a very well known jockey. Orpi showed excellent form last season and has won over a mile, in pretty good company, too, but it will be time enough to go into his form when we become acquainted with the weights. Wavy Stripe looks like being a certain runner to judge by the money put on him, especially that part of it emanating from Ireland, where the horse is owned and trained. He was much fancied to win the Cambridgeshire which was never run, and, apart from knowing that, it is only necessary to look up his form to realise that he must be a very smart horse. He ran seven times in Ireland last season and was only once beaten!

Earna is a mare that as a four year old beat Irish Elegance and Hainault, after which she seemed to go all wrong. A change of stables wrought another sort of change, and for Reginald Day, the able trainer of Bracket, she won the Autumn Handicap at Newmarket last season. She cannot be given much weight, but, even allowing for a return to form, it is a fact that mares have a very poor record in the Lincolnshire Handicap. We have to go back exactly twenty years for the last mare to win—Little Eva—and then occurs another very long interval. The experiences of Lincolnshire Handicap history do not favour a mare, but perhaps it is of more importance to know that her trainer believes in her—and he also believed in Bracket and was right. Similarly there may be prejudices against Monarch on the ground that he is a three year old, and it is nearly thirty years since a horse of that age won the Handicap. Sceptre

could not quite do so, and though Monarch was a consistent and high-class two year old, it cannot be claimed that he was an outstanding champion.

If you wish to contemplate a fine entry there is certainly one in the case of the Jubilee Handicap, which is of the gross value of £3,000. The cost for each starter will be £30, which is equivalent to the new entry rate of 1 per cent. on the value of the stake. An owner can get out for £5, however, as in the case of the Lincolnshire Handicap. Excluding last year's Derby winner, Spion Kop, who for some reason is in the City and Suburban in preference to this race, we have in it the best horses in the country at this distance, including the unbeaten two year old filly, Pharmacie. I may note it as a fact in passing that she is doing exceedingly well from two to three years of age. This "Jubilee" entry also contains the names of last year's winner, Tangiers, Comrade (Grand Prix and other races, only once beaten), Orpheus (Duke of York Stakes and Champion Stakes winner), Tetratema (with a "Classic" to his credit), Bracket (Cesarewitch), Square Measure (Royal Hunt Cup, etc.), Charlebelle (Oaks), Silvern (probably the best three year old in 1920), Oxendon and Black Gown (two of the seven three year olds engaged), Manilardo, Paragon, Most Beautiful and others of note. It is an extraordinarily fine entry, and the

winner will, indeed, take some finding. I may add that the City and Suburban has done fairly well, and so far as I can see the Gold Cup at Ascot has attracted the best known stayers in training. Even so, the entry is not what might be called brilliant—I suppose because last year's three year olds showed themselves so deficient in stamina taking them as a whole. A great stayer in Happy Man (winner of the Ascot Stakes last year) is entered, as also are Spion Kop, Bracket, Tangiers (who, unlike his rival, Buchan, remains in training for another year), Mount Royal (a Goodwood Cup winner), Silvern, and Comrade. Those mentioned above, with the exception of Happy Man and Mount Royal, are in the Coronation Cup at Epsom, which last year was won by Manilardo from Tangiers. As regards events which have closed for two year olds I need only mention that most of the high-priced yearlings of 1920 have been entered for the Coventry Stakes at Ascot. The following are conspicuous in the entry: Lord Glanely's Blue Ensign (cost 14,500 guineas), Mr. James White's Noblesse Oblige (cost 9,600 guineas), Mr. G. Shepherd's colt by Tracery—Port Sunlight (cost 9,400 guineas), Lady Nunburnholme's Highcliff (cost 4,400 guineas), Mr. Whineray's Blackwood (cost 3,800 guineas), Sir H. Cunliffe-Owen's White Satin (cost 3,600 guineas).
PHILIPPOS.

A GOLFING WEEK AT RYE

I AM writing at Rye, where there has been a great gathering of the golfing clans for the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society's Tournament. I cannot say anything about the tournament itself, as it will not be over until it is too late. But there has been some capital golf going on in preparation for it. Mr. Tolley, Mr. Wethered, Mr. de Montmorency, Mr. Hooman, Mr. Beveridge and Major Gordon Barry, have been among the "Society" players; we have had an invasion from St. Andrews in the shape of Mr. F. M. Richardson and Mr. Muirhead, and the great James Braid has been taking a busman's holiday here and playing in some excellent foursomes such as his soul loves.

Nobody has been playing better than Mr. de Montmorency, who is always at his best at Rye and has got back that little bit of sting and length in his driving which last summer he seemed temporarily to have lost. Rye in a wind—and we have had nothing but wind—is a course which remorselessly divides those who are really "class" golfers from the rest of us who scramble round somehow and can manage to do some fours when there is nothing much to stop us. Mr. de Montmorency, with that beautifully timed hit of his, with his firmness of foot and steadiness of body, sends his ball low and straight through the wind in a way that is the despair of most people, and to see him playing such a hole as the short eighth with a hurricane blowing on his back is a real artistic joy. It seems so easy for him to hold the ball into that wind, such a fearful effort for other people, even if they do succeed in getting somehow on to the green.

Mr. Tolley's golf has been in and out, very good sometimes and then comes a spell of topping and wild hitting, which seems almost impossible to one who can swing a club so rhythmically. Mr. Wethered has been, for the moment, rather the more convincing of the two Oxford lights. As a combination they won one very good match from Mr. de Montmorency and Mr. Hooman at the last hole. In the afternoon Braid took Mr. Hooman's place and then Oxford went down by 4 and 2; but as Mr. de Montmorency went round off his own bat in 75 in a strong and difficult wind, this was certainly nothing to be ashamed of. As Braid has been playing mostly in foursomes, I cannot tell of any tremendous performances by him, but he has been playing very well and the course at full stretch with slow ground and a heavy wind suits him to perfection.

If one has any golfing conceit left in him, Rye in winter is undoubtedly the course to take it out of him. As I said, the tees have been right back and the wind has been blowing steadily and strongly from the south-west. Those who know the course—and nobody's golfing education is quite complete till he does—will know that this is a wind of really devilish ingenuity. It helps us at no single hole except the solitary one where we would much rather do without it. This is the short fourteenth, and here, with a wind behind us, we are prone either to drop pusillanimously short in the sandy broken country at the foot of the green or else harden our hearts and go raging over into the bunker beyond. Everywhere else the wind, if not actually fighting us, is, taking us on the flank and helping us onwards to perdition on either one side or the other. And at the first three holes and also at the fifth, nothing is easier than to hook out of bounds. Then when we turn round we content ourselves hideously in trying to hug the sandhills and are pretty sure, sooner or later, to slice out of bounds at the tenth. A good St. Andrews golfer, who has been playing here, declared that he had never had so much brassy play in his life, and what difficult brassy play it is too! The ground never helps us in the slightest degree unless, which I doubt, indeed, it is helpful to find the ball cocked up on the top of a hummock. No, the ball lies down obstinately adhering to the hard turf. The getting it into the air is our job. You may see more brassy shots topped by good players in one day at Rye than you would in a month on some soft, mossy,

enervating paradise. I always make a solemn vow that the next time I come here I will bring a specially constructed club, with the shallowest possible face, but I am always too lazy to do it and pay the penalty accordingly. It is extraordinarily good discipline and I would not for the world change these testing lies for something more flattering save at one hole. This is the thirteenth, or sea hole, sometimes called "Archerfield." Here the second shot has to carry a range of sandhills and just a little friendliness on the part of the turf would make it more amusing for ordinary frail humanity. But it is just at this particular hole that the ball lies most relentlessly close. Refusing to admit our frailty, we go for the carry and do not get down to the ball. The ball thereupon runs half way up the hill, hesitates a moment and then totters gently back to the bottom, where a capacious bunker awaits it—a bunker, too, in which many other unfortunates have left their footprints.
BERNARD DARWIN.

GOLF CASUALTIES.

TESTIMONY to the sportsmanship of the British peoples is afforded by their reluctance to go to law over their games. Take golf, for instance: accidents do happen even upon the links, and yet to find a case in which a golfer has sued or been sued is like looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack. There may have been actions over accidents on golf links, but a fairly exhaustive search has failed to disclose any reported decision on the subject. The general law, however, is pretty well understood, and may be stated as being that when people engage in a game which is dangerous or in which accidents may happen, every player taking part in it takes on himself the risks incident to being a player, and has no remedy against anyone from whom he may receive injury in the course of it, unless violence or unfairness has been used towards him or he can prove negligence on the part of the person causing the injury. A spectator is in much the same position. If I choose, says Pollock in his standard work on Torts, to stand near a man using an axe, he may be a good woodman or not; but I cannot (it is submitted) complain of an accident because a more skilled woodman might have avoided it. So if two men are fencing and one of the foils breaks, and the broken end, being thrown off with some force, hits a bystander, no wrong is done to him. These examples are easily applicable to golf, and we can deduce therefrom that a spectator, like the player, takes the ordinary risks of the game. A trespasser, too, can have no ground of complaint if he is accidentally injured.

But what of persons injured outside the links or while lawfully passing along a highway or footpath that crosses the course? They would seem to be in much the same position as the players and the spectators and to be obliged to prove negligence on the part of the player or the club as a condition precedent to the recovery of damages. Golf, like cricket, is a lawful game, and in a Scottish case it was held that the fact that a cricket ball struck a child in a neighbouring garden did not of itself render the cricketers liable in damages, but that the plaintiff was bound to prove negligence on the part of the player. Of course, a higher degree of care is required from those who play golf, or any other game, near to a highway, but the broad rule would seem to be that a player using all reasonable care and skill is not responsible for the result of an accident. To knowingly use improper or defective instruments is negligence, but an accident arising from a latent defect in club or ball will generally not be actionable. A good look-out must be kept and reckless play avoided; for a player must remember that in order to be excused from liability for an injury resulting from his act the injury must both be unintentional and not owing to neglect or due want of caution on his part.